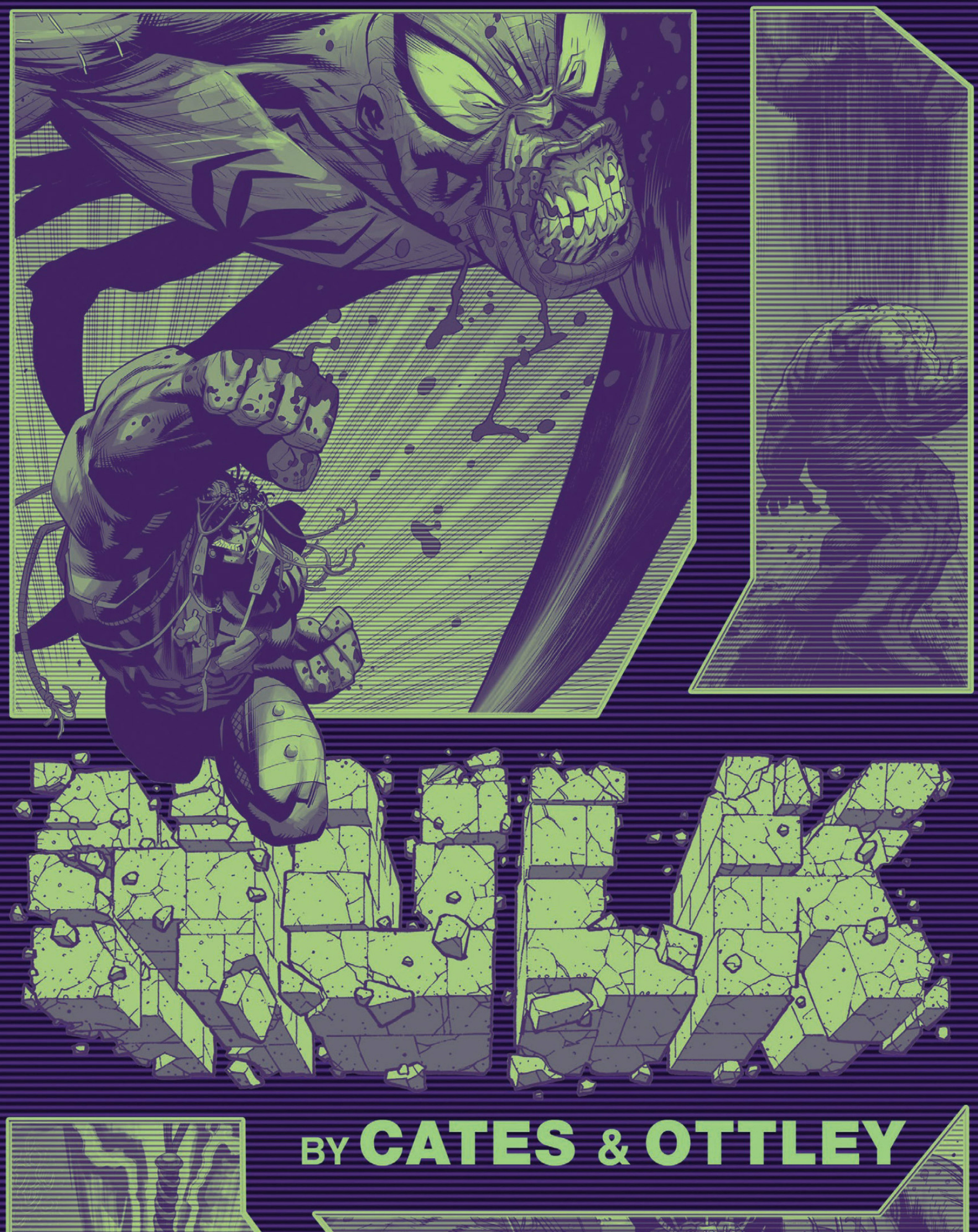
HULK
BY
CATES &
OTTLEY
"Bombastic
and ambitious."
— *AIPT*
R. OTTLEY
WITH
CÓCCOLO &
RATHBURN
MARVEL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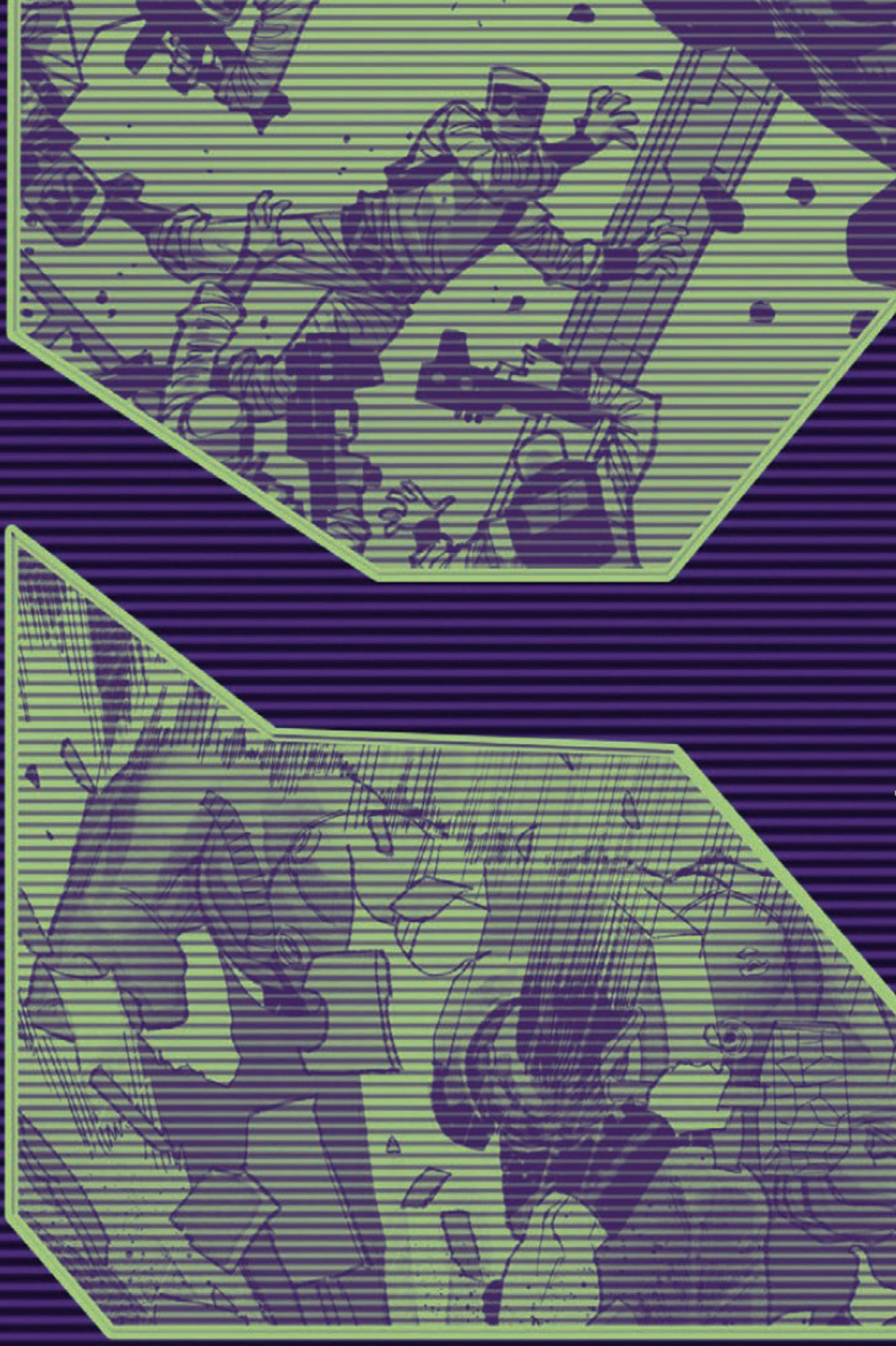

HULK CREATED BY
STAN LEE & **JACK KIRBY**

COLLECTION EDITOR
JENNIFER GRÜNWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR
DANIEL KIRCHHOFFER
TALENT RELATIONS SPECIALIST
LISA MONTALBANO
VP, PRODUCTION & SPECIAL PROJECTS
JEFF YOUNGQUIST
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MANAGER & SENIOR DESIGNER
ADAM DEL RE

LEAD DESIGNER
JAY BOWEN
VP, PRINT & DIGITAL PUBLISHING
DAVID GABRIEL
SR. MANAGER, DIGITAL
TIM SMITH 3
DIGITAL PRODUCTION
JASMINE ALVAREZ
EDITOR IN CHIEF
C.B. CEBULSKI

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HULK

BY CATES & OTTLEY

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021: AVENGERS/HULK

WRITER
DONNY CATES

ARTIST
RYAN OTTLEY

COLOR ARTIST
FRANK MARTIN

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY & FRANK MARTIN

HULK #1-6

WRITER
DONNY CATES

PENCILER
RYAN OTTLEY

INKERS
RYAN OTTLEY (#1) & **CLIFF RATHBURN** (#2-6)

COLOR ARTISTS
FRANK MARTIN WITH **FEDERICO BLEE** (#3)

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY WITH **FRANK MARTIN** (#1-3) & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.** (#4-6)

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA

WRITER
DONNY CATES

ARTIST
MARTÍN CÓCCOLO

COLOR ARTIST
MATTHEW WILSON

LETTERER
VC's JOE SABINO

COVER ART
GARY FRANK & BRAD ANDERSON

THOR #25-26

WRITER
DONNY CATES

ARTIST
MARTÍN CÓCCOLO

COLOR ARTIST
MATTHEW WILSON

LETTERER
VC's JOE SABINO

COVER ART
GARY FRANK & BRAD ANDERSON

HULK #7-8

WRITERS
DONNY CATES WITH **DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON** (#8)

ARTIST
MARTÍN CÓCCOLO

COLOR ARTIST
MATTHEW WILSON

LETTERER
VC's JOE SABINO (#7) & **CORY PETIT** (#8)

COVER ART
GARY FRANK & BRAD ANDERSON

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BY
DONNY CATES & **RYAN OTTLEY**

INKER
CLIFF RATHBURN

COLOR ARTISTS
MARTE GRACIA (#9-10), **MATT HOLLINGSWORTH** (#9) & **SONIA OBACK** (#10)

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY WITH **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.** (#9) & **MATT HOLLINGSWORTH** (#10)

HULK #11

WRITER/ARTIST
RYAN OTTLEY

COLOR ARTIST
MARTE GRACIA

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY & MARTE GRACIA

HULK #12

PLOT
RYAN OTTLEY & **DONNY CATES**

SCRIPT/PENCILER
RYAN OTTLEY

INKER
CLIFF RATHBURN

COLOR ARTIST
MARTE GRACIA

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY & MARTE GRACIA

HULK #13-14

WRITER/PENCILER
RYAN OTTLEY

INKER
CLIFF RATHBURN

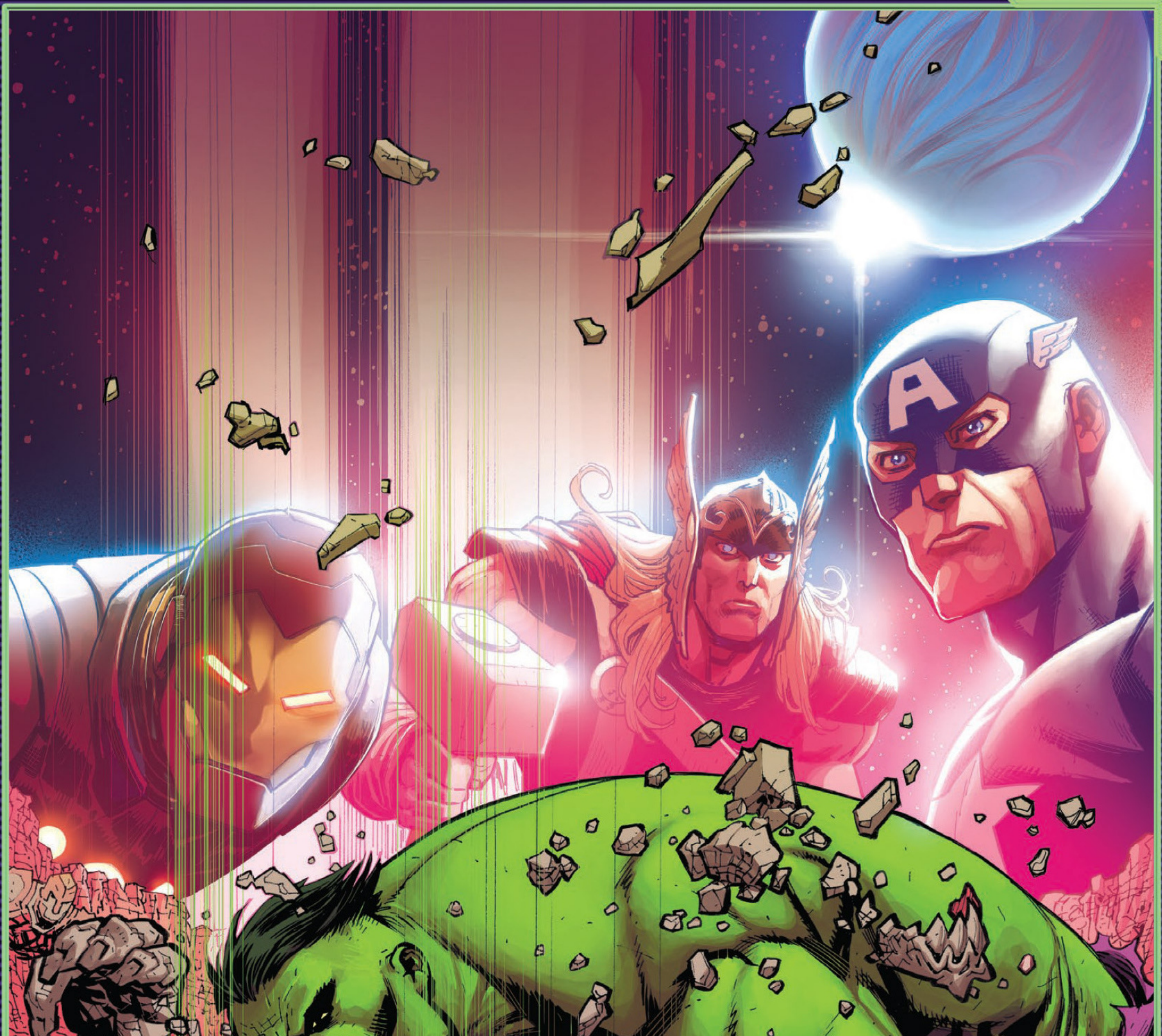
COLOR ARTIST
MARTE GRACIA

LETTERER
VC's CORY PETIT

COVER ART
RYAN OTTLEY & MARTE GRACIA

ASSISTANT EDITORS
KAT GREGOROWICZ, KAITLYN LINDTVEDT & MICHELLE MARCHESE

EDITORS
WIL MOSS WITH **ALANNA SMITH**



FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021:
AVENGERS/HULK

MY LOYAL A.I.M. MINIONS! OUR TIME HAS COME!
NONE OF THIS MATTERS.
BASICALLY, M.O.D.O.K. HERE IS ATTEMPTING TO TAKE A.I.M. INTO SPACE TO COLONIZE THE MOON OR WHATEVER.
I HACKED THE AVENGERS' DATABASE AND FOUND OUT THEY'VE BEEN STAKING OUT THE OPERATION FOR DAYS, GATHERING INTEL.
THEY HAD A WHOLE PLAN LAID OUT. A SIMULTANEOUS ATTACK FROM THE AIR AND BY LAND.
ME...?

I TOOK THE TRAIN.
BOOOOM

NOW BEFORE EVERYONE GETS CARRIED AWAY, LET ME JUST SAY--
DOOM
KILL HIM!!!
→SIGH←
FINE.
HEY... HEY...LOOK. OKAY.
THE TRAIN THING WAS EXCESSIVE. I KNOW.
BUT HONESTLY, YOU CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE ANY CHANCE OF HURTING ME, RIGHT?
I'M THE HULK.
I MEAN, ALL THESE HENCHMEN? REALLY, ALL OF THIS IS ON YOU AT A CERTAIN POINT, YOU KNOW?

I'M NOT EVEN HERE TO STOP YOU.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHATEVER THIS IS. YOU WANT TO GO TO SPACE? FINE. NOT MY PROBLEM, AND HONESTLY, IT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BETTER.
THE AVENGERS HATE ME TOO, OKAY? I'M NOT EXACTLY ANYONE'S FAVORITE RIGHT NOW.
I'M JUST LOOKING FOR SOME GEAR. I'M TRYING TO--
ENOUGH! M.O.D.O.K. IS NOT SO EASILY TRAPPED, HULK!
BEHOLD: PROJECT G.O.D.O.S.!*
UGH...
PROJECT WHAT?

*GIANT ORGANISM DESIGNED ONLY FOR SMASHING.
BOOOOM

I NEVER WANTED THIS.
NEVER WANTED TO BE A HERO.
HAHAHA!!!
NEVER WANTED TO BE AN AVENGER OR A DEFENDER...
RAGHGH!!!
BOOOM
NEVER ASKED TO BE A MONSTER...
SMASH
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT.
IS THIS THE MIGHTY HULK?!
I WANTED TO BE AN EXPLORER.
MY, HOW YOU'VE FALLEN!
I WANTED TO FIND NEW WORLDS.
IS THAT REALLY ALL YOU'VE--
WAIT...

BUT INSTEAD I JUST BUILT BOMBS.
KA-THROOOM

NO MORE.
BOOM
I'VE DONE MY TIME AS A MONSTER.
DONE MY TOURS OF DUTY AS A HERO.
THIS--THIS IS ROCKET FUEL! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE!!!
NOW IT'S MY TURN...
I'M LEAVING.
I'M GOING TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN IN MY INDESTRUCTIBLE GREEN SPACESHIP...
NOOO!!!

NEXT:

OPERATION: SMASHTRONAUT

HULK #1 VARIANT BY **PEACH MOMOKO**

HULK #1

"I HAVE LONG HELD A THEORY ABOUT THE HULK.
BOOM
"I HAVE NEVER SHARED IT BEFORE NOW BECAUSE, WELL FRANKLY, IT TERRIFIES ME TO MY VERY CORE.
BOOOM
BOOOM
RAGHHH!!!
"WE HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF THE HULK AS THE MANIFESTATION OF DOCTOR BANNER'S TRAUMA THAT HE EXPERIENCED AS A CHILD.
"OR PERHAPS HIS ID.
"HIS SHADOW.
"HIS FURY.

"HIS RAGE.
"BUT...
"...WHAT IF...
BOOOM
"...WHAT IF THE HULK IS NONE OF THOSE THINGS.
"WHAT IF HE EXISTS...
"...TO PROTECT US...

ENGINE ENGAGED. READY FOR LAUNCH.
BOOOM
"...FROM BANNER."

CAPTAIN
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
BETTY.
YOU... SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T KEEP HIM LOCKED IN THERE...
IT WOULD APPEAR I VERY MUCH CAN.
BRUCE, HE'S JUST A *CHILD*...
YOU EVER SEEN *THE OMEN?*
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU. YOU'RE HURTING YOURSELF. HURTING HIM.
YOU...
YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN EL PASO.

I DON'T BLAME MYSELF! I BLAME HIM!!!
BRUCE...PLEASE... YOU'RE SCARING ME. YOU...YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE YOURSELF. JUST PLEASE--
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT I SOUND LIKE? HUH?
HOW WOULD ANYONE?!
I'M ONLY USEFUL TO ANY OF YOU WHEN I'M NOT HERE.
AND I HAVE HAD ENOUGH!!!
I NEVER WANTED THIS.
I NEVER WANTED TO BE A SUPER HERO OR A DEFENDER OR AN AVENGER OR A MONSTER.
I WANTED TO DISCOVER THINGS. TO INVENT THINGS. I WANTED TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES OF WHAT'S POSSIBLE. I WANTED TO BE A MAN OF SCIENCE...
BUT THEN...

ENGINES TO TWENTY PERCENT.
TEK
RAGHHH!!!
BOOM
THEN THIS *TUMOR* STARTED TO GROW INSIDE OF ME. THIS *SICKNESS.*
AND I WAS A FOOL TO THINK IT WOULD STOP GROWING.
YOU SAW WHAT HAPPENED IN EL PASO.
IT'S...IT'S GETTING WORSE. AND...ONE OF THESE DAYS...HE'S GOING TO COME OUT...
...AND I'M NEVER GOING TO WAKE UP AGAIN.
DON'T YOU GET IT, BETTY?
THE HULK IS IMMORTAL.
I'M NOT.

BUT UNTIL THEN, IT'S MY TURN TO PUSH THE BOUNDARIES.
BRUCE, STOP! THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK! HE'S GOING TO GET OUT AND YOU KNOW IT.
THIS IS GOING TO BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE!
HEH... WELL, YOU WERE THERE...
BOOOM
BANNER!!!
THINGS BLOWING UP IN MY FACE IS HOW I GOT HERE.
IT MIGHT AS WELL BE HOW IT ENDS.
NOW GET OUT OF MY HEAD.
BOOOM

BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
BOOOM
THESE WAVES DO NOT CRASH ON ME.
THEY *BREAK* ON ME.
BECAUSE I...
...I AM STRONG.

HEY. REAL QUICK. IS... ANYONE ELSE *VERY* CONFUSED?
I KNOW. IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN.
BUT IT IS WHY I HAVE GATHERED YOU ALL HERE.
THIS IS POTENTIALLY THE GREATEST THREAT WE HAVE EVER FACED. IF THE EVENTS OF EL PASO HAVE WELL AND TRULY BROKEN BRUCE'S MIND...
...THEN I FEAR WE MAY BE OUT OF OPTIONS.
WE HAVE AN OFFICIAL DEATH COUNT ON EL PASO YET?
ONE IS TOO MANY.
I HAVE IRON MAN TRACKING HIM NOW. HE'S MOVING THROUGH WUNDAGORE TOWARD AN OLD STARK TECH ARMORY.
STRANGE, WHAT IS HAPPENING?
HOW IS BRUCE *DOING* THIS?

I...I DON'T KNOW. WHAT HE'S BUILT...
I DON'T BELIEVE EVEN I COULD HAVE ACHIEVED IT.
I HAVE SCOURED THE EARTH, SEARCHING AND QUESTIONING EVERY MYSTIC AND OMEGA-LEVEL TELEPATH WHO COULD DO SUCH A THING...
AND... NOTHING.
HE COULDN'T HAVE BUILT IT HIMSELF.
IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE...THE MAGIC REQUIRED...IT'S BEYOND--
STEPHEN. FOCUS.
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
I'M...I'M NOT SURE HOW TO SAY THIS WITHOUT JUST SAYING IT...
BUT...HE'S... FRACTURED HIS MIND INTO PARTS. REBUILT IT INTO...
...WELL...

"...I BELIEVE HE'S TURNED THE HULK INTO A STARSHIP.
RAGHHH!!!

"HE'S SPLIT HIS PSYCHE INTO THREE DISTINCT PARTS.
STAY DOWN, TONY. YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER BY NOW...
IN ALL YOUR TIME BUILDING ARMOR...
"HE'S MODIFIED AND UPGRADED THE EXTERNAL FRAME WITH TECH THAT HE VERY... VIOLENTLY STOLE FROM A.I.M. AND THEN SOMEHOW SURGICALLY IMPLANTED INTO HIS...WELL, INTO THE HULK'S OWN BODY.
...YOU'VE NEVER BUILT ONE THAT CAN BEAT MINE.
"AND HE'S BUILT AN IMMENSE MIND PALACE... ONE LIKE I HAVE NEVER SEEN.
"I WITNESSED IT BRIEFLY IN MY ASTRAL FORM BEFORE I WAS CAST OUT...
HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL, BIG GUY.
"VAST. COMPLEX. IMPENETRABLE. AND AT THE VERY HEART OF IT ALL... WHERE THE HULK'S PSCHE SHOULD BE?
IS THAT SO?
"SITS BRUCE.
"A CAPTAIN. ASTRIDE THE BRIDGE...
"...OF STARSHIP HULK.
THAT'S NOT REALLY BEEN MY EXPERIENCE.

SO FOR THE LAST TIME, TONY: STAND DOWN AND GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY. YOU'RE ALONE, YOUR ARMOR IS BREAKING, AND I AM GETTING THROUGH THAT DOOR ONE WAY OR THE--
AGH!
BOOOM
OH, COME ON, BRUCE...
OH, COME ON, BRUCE...
OH, COME ON, BRUCE...
OH, COME ON, BRUCE...
FWWAASHHH
YOU REALLY THINK I'M OUT OF TRICKS?
FWWAASHH
AGH!

WHAT YOU'RE FEELING IS ADAMANTIUM NANOPARTICLE SHRAPNEL, BRUCE.
NASTY STUFF.
SEE, IT BURROWS INTO SKIN. EVEN YOURS.
AND AS IT DOES, THE NANO-PROGRAMMING FORGES THE ADAMANTIUM AT AN ATOMIC LEVEL.
RAGHH!!!
CREATING ANY SHAPE OR FORM I WANT.
IN THIS CASE? A CAGE.
SORRY, BRUCE. THIS IS WHERE IT ENDS.
"WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE THIRD ELEMENT IN THIS NEW STARSHIP MIND PALACE...
"BECAUSE AS WE ALL KNOW... TO MAKE THE HULK'S EXTERNAL BODY STRONG...
"...THE HULK'S PSYCHE MUST STAY ANGRY...

"...WHICH IS WHY BRUCE HAS CAGED IT.
"PLACED IT IN WHAT HE CALLS *THE ENGINE ROOM.*
CLK
STAGE ONE:
"AND WITH A PUSH OF HIS THROTTLE...
BANNER...

"...HE CONTROLS THE HULK'S RAGE."
INFINITE ARMIES.

AGHHH!!!
GAHH!
SSSSHH
KRACK
OH @#$%!
I SAY WHEN IT ENDS.

BRUCE! WAIT!
STRANGE...HE'S TOLD US EVERYTHING. I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN THERE AND...LOOK, FROM ONE MAD SCIENTIST TO ANOTHER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO--
I AM NOT MAD!
KRAKOOM
I'M ANGRY!
AND I'M DONE EXPLAINING MYSELF TO YOU, TONY!
HEY! COME ON! JUST STOP BEFORE YOU--

TO ANYONE!!!
ROOOP
WAIT...
RAGH!
SHINK
...HOW ARE YOU DOING THIS? BRUCE...HOW DID YOU KNOW I WASN'T IN THAT SUIT?
I DIDN'T.
K-CHUNK
THANKS FOR THE HEADS UP.

RAGHHH!!!
KROOOOM
THAT IS ENOUGH, BRUCE!
YOU ARE NOT GETTING THROUGH HERE!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?! NOT WHILE I'M STILL STANDING!
GOOD TO KNOW.

RAGHHH!!!
KA-THOOM
PLEASE... PLEASE DON'T DO THIS...
YOU KNOW...THIS MIGHT SHOCK YOU, TONY, BUT I ACTUALLY DIDN'T COME HERE FOR A FIGHT.
I'M HERE FOR THIS.
WHAT DID YOU CALL IT?

PROJECT: A.R.K., RIGHT?
YOU'VE BEEN BUILDING IT EVER SINCE YOU PILOTED THIS CELESTIAL DURING THE KNULL ATTACK.*
USING THE LATENT CELESTIAL ENERGIES TO CREATE A WORMHOLE TO A POCKET DIMENSION THAT YOU COULD EVACUATE CIVILIANS TO IN CASE OF ANOTHER EVENT-LEVEL ATTACK.
IT'S GOOD WORK, TONY.
*SEE KING IN BLACK. -WIL

I'M GOING TO NEED TO BORROW IT.
NO! BRUCE! YOU--YOU CAN'T DO THIS! THE MATH ISN'T FINISHED. IT ISN'T SAFE!
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ALL WANT, TONY?
TO BE RID OF ME?
BRUCE...NOT LIKE THIS. LISTEN TO ME...YOU COULD DIE IN THERE...YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE IT WILL TAKE YOU!
AND NEITHER WILL YOU.
SEND
ANSMISSION
GOODBYE, TONY.

"IF YOU CAN HEAR THIS MESSAGE, THEN I AM ALREADY GONE. I AM BROADCASTING THIS NOT TO EXPLAIN MYSELF...
"...BUT AS A WARNING.
"I'M LEAVING. NOT BECAUSE I HATE YOU. NOT BECAUSE I'M SCARED OF YOU.
"I'M LEAVING BECAUSE NONE OF YOU WILL KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH WHAT I'M GOING TO BECOME.
NO!!!
"YOU ALL HAVE YOUR LITTLE PLANS. YOUR ARMORED SUITS, YOUR ROCKET SHIPS--ALL OF YOUR CLEVER IDEAS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH MY MONSTER SHOULD HIS ACTIONS NOT PROVE TO BE IN YOUR BEST INTERESTS.
"BUT...YOU AREN'T DEALING WITH HIM ANYMORE.
"YOU'RE DEALING WITH ME.
"AND I PROMISE...
"YOU HAVE NO PLAN...FOR ME.
"BECAUSE I AM NOT CONTROLLED BY MY RAGE ANYMORE.

RAAAGGHHHH!!!
"I AM FUELED BY IT."

HULK #1 VARIANT BY **ARTHUR ADAMS** & **LAURA MARTIN**

HULK #2

STOP!!!
YOU HAVE ENTERED THE ARTERIAL DIMENSIONAL BETWEEN-SPACE--A FORBIDDEN ZONE FOR MORTALS!
I ORDER YOU TO TURN YOUR VESSEL AROUND AT ONCE!
ON BEHALF OF THE ALTERNATE UNIVERSE TIMELINE HAZARD OPERATIONS RESPONSE & INTERVENTION TEAM Y--
--WAIT, WAIT, STOP!!! STOP!

BOOOOM
ALERT! ALERT!!!
BOOOM
ALERT!!!
BOOM
HUH?!
WHAT--
--THE HELL WAS ALL THAT?

WARNING! CRITICAL DAMAGE! PHYSICAL REGRESSION IMMINENT!
WAIT, WHAT?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!
WE HAVE BEEN TARGETED, SIR.
SOMETHING--OR SOMEONE--IS ATTEMPTING TO PULL US INTO A DIMENSIONAL FISSURE, THE ENERGY OF WHICH IS STRAINING THE LIMITATIONS OF THE HULK'S FORM.
WITHOUT MORE POWER FROM THE ENGINE ROOM, THE HULK WILL RETURN ONCE MORE TO ITS HUMAN FORM. TO YOU, DOCTOR BANNER...
IF THIS OCCURS, YOUR BODY WILL NOT--
I KNOW. NOT HAPPENING.
MORE POWER?
NEVER BEEN A PROBLEM.
CLK
1
3
2

THE ENGINE ROOM.
STAGE TWO:

MONSTERS.
BANNER...
RAAGHH!

GRAGH!!!
BETTER?
YES, SIR. ENGINES AT TWENTY PERCENT AND HOLDING.
OKAY. NOW WHAT THE HELL IS THIS THING ATTACKING US?
THE ORIGIN OF THE ENERGY IS UNKNOWN.
BUT ACCORDING TO OUR SENSORS...
...WE ARE BEING SCANNED.
SCANNED? FOR WHAT?
GAMMA RADIATION, SIR.
THE AVENGERS.
THEY'VE FOUND ME.

WE NEED MORE POWER.
SIR, INCREASING POWER TO THE ENGINE AT THIS POINT IS NOT ADVISED! THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH IT CAN TAKE BEFORE--
CLK
RAGHHH!!!
RRRR?

STAGE THREE:

GIANT-SIZED WOLVERINE.
SNIKT
AGH!
STAY STILL, BUB!
HULK!
SMASH!!!

BWAAAH!!!
ENGINES CRITICAL.
BOOOM
RAGH!
COME ON! GET UP!!!
COME HERE, YA LITTLE RUNT!

YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK HIM.
SNIKT
HAGH!!!
YOU'RE WRONG, BETTY.
AGHH!!!
KRAK
HULK!!!
HE'S THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS.

STAB!!!
YES! ALL RIGHT, NOW LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF--
CRITICAL DAMAGE.
WAIT, WHAT?
HULL COMPROMISED. SYSTEM FAILURE IMMINENT.
ABSOLUTELY NOT.

YOU AREN'T GOING TO MAKE IT, BRUCE.
YOU AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
NO! I CAN DO THIS!!!
THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MAKE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL.
WE KEEP GOING. WE JUST NEED MORE--
BRUCE, DON'T! YOU'LL KILL--
AAGH!

NO!!!...
BUT...
...WE NEVER LOSE.
BOOOM
BANNER...

AGH!
WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS? WHERE ARE WE?
WH--? HEY. HEY, LET ME OUT!
LET ME OUT!!!

OH... OH MY GOD...
I--I DID IT. I CAUGHT ONE. AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...
WHO THE--
--HELL ARE YOU?
START TALKING, OR I WILL RIP THIS WORLD IN HALF.
WHAT IS THIS? WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE?
OH, MY LORD... YOU ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM THE REST...
YOU CAN SPEAK--REASON, EVEN--AND YOU'RE... YOU'RE IN CONTROL...
PLEASE. DO NOT BE AFRAID.
I MEAN YOU NO HARM...

MY NAME IS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER.

HULK #1 VARIANT BY **SIMONE BIANCHI**

HULK #3

WHEN HE LEAVES.
WHEN HE LETS ME BACK OUT. BACK INTO MY BODY.
I LIE THERE. MY EYES CLOSED. PRETENDING TO SLEEP.
AND I WAIT.
I WAIT TO HEAR SIRENS. OR SCREAMING.
THE SOUNDS OF DEATH. AND DYING.
DIE PEACEFUL
STAY SAFE
DEATH METAL
WE FIGHT? YOU DIE.
EL PASO. THEN.
AND EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...I WAKE UP TO THE SOUNDS OF JOY.
TO THE SOUNDS OF CELEBRATION FROM MY PEERS AND THOSE HE HAS DEEMED WORTHY OF SALVATION.
IN THOSE TIMES HE HAS DECIDED TO PLAY HERO.
IT IS IN THOSE MOMENTS THAT I CAN ALMOST TASTE MY RAGE. I FEEL NAUSEOUS AS IT RISES IN MY GUT.
BECAUSE AFTER EVERYTHING HE HAS DONE...ALL THE PAIN AND THE DEATH...
...THE WELL OF FORGIVENESS THE WORLD AFFORDS HIM NEVER SEEMS TO RUN DRY...

...BUT I...
...I NEVER FORGET.

AND YET...IN MY MEMORIES OF WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY...
I AM AWAKE.
N-NO...
BUT I AM NOT ALONE.
WH-WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? I THOUGHT...
...I THOUGHT WE--WE WERE A TEAM?
HOW COULD YOU?? WHY WOULD YOU MAKE ME--
BECAUSE...
NGHH! N-NO!!!
...YOU ARE WEAK, BOY.
AGHHHHH!!!

SHHH! SHHH, YOU'RE OKAY HERE. YOU ARE SAFE.
PLEASE, I'VE GIVEN YOU A MILD SEDATIVE. IT'S NOTHING TO--
AGH! WAIT!
WHAT IS THIS?!
GAHH! NO!!!
WHO ARE YOU?!
START.
TALKING.

MY WORD... YOU...
...YOU ARE MAGNIFICENT. I HAVE NEVER MET AN ABOMINATION WITH SUCH...AGENCY.
...
WHAT THE HELL DID--
--YOU JUST CALL ME?
AH. YES, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE SOMEWHAT... PEJORATIVE NATURE OF THE TERM. IT IS WHAT MY...WELL, MY SUPERIOR HAS CLASSIFIED YOUR KIND AS, AND I SUPPOSE...
WELL, AS I SAID, I'VE NEVER ENCOUNTERED ONE SUCH AS YOU WHO COULD...REASON. SPEAK.
AS I SAID... MY NAME IS DOCTOR BRUCE BANNER. I ASSURE YOU...I MEAN YOU NO HARM. NOW...
...DO YOU, PERHAPS, HAVE A NAME YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDRESSED BY?

MY NAME IS ALSO DOCTOR ROBERT BRUCE BANNER.
SOME PEOPLE CALL ME THE HULK.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRADE NOTES.
YES...
YES, PERHAPS WE SHOULD...

OKAY, YOU FIRST. WHAT IS THIS PLACE AND--
ALERT! ENGINES IN DANGER OF OVERHEATING.
IMMINENT FURNACE COLLAPSE IS ESTIMATED IN--
OH. RIGHT.
RAGGGH!!!
I FORGOT.
2
1
CLIK

ENGINES AT TEN PERCENT AND HOLDING.
HUH?!
BOOOM
HGH HGH
YOU...
...YOU CANNOT CAGE ME, BANNER.
NOT...NOT FOREVER.
...?

YOU!!!
WHO ARE YOU?!
WAIT!!!
NO!!!
PLEASE...
PLEASE COME BACK!!!

SO, YES. TO MAKE A VERY LONG STORY SHORT...I WAS EXPOSED TO THE GAMMA RADIATION FROM THE TEST SITE THAT DAY. AND I, WELL, I TURNED INTO THIS. ON MY WORLD, THEY CALL ME THE HULK.
IT'S...A BIT MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT, BUT--
SIR, THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AND ENERGY READINGS FROM THE ENGINE ROOM. THE RADIATION SIGNATURES DOUBLED AND THEN SUDDENLY--
I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING. PLEASE, I'M IN THE--
--MIDDLE OF A CONVERSATION.
I'M SORRY?
MY APOLOGIES. I'M SPEAKING TO MY SHIP'S COMPUTER.
PLEASE, I HAVE SO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR WORLD. HOW DID YOU FIND ME OUT THERE IN THAT... SUB-DIMENSIONAL RIFT? WHY WERE YOU SEARCHING FOR ME?
PERHAPS... TO FIND A CURE FOR YOUR OWN GAMMA MUTATION?
I...
I AM NOT ONE OF YOU... HULKS.
I'M AFRAID I'M SOMETHING MUCH, MUCH WORSE...

"YOU SEE...
"...HERE ON MY WORLD...
"...THE EXPERIMENT... THE G-BOMB...
"IT WAS A SUCCESS.
"I DREAMT THAT DAY...
"I DREAMT OF A GREEN WORLD.
"EVERY HOME AND CAR AND TELEVISION AND LIGHT BULB...ALL POWERED BY AN UNLIMITED AMOUNT OF FREE POWER...
"BUT... I WAS... NAIVE.
"I DIDN'T KNOW THE DARK SIDE OF POWER.
"I THOUGHT MYSELF A PIONEER. A SAVIOR PERHAPS...
"INSTEAD... IN THAT MOMENT...

"...I BECAME DEATH...
...DESTROYER OF WORLDS."

I... GOD HELP ME...
...I KNOW THE FEELING.
I...I NEVER WANTED THIS.
THE--THE POWERS THAT BE... THEY TOOK MY INVENTION AND THEY... THEY SET FIRE TO THE WORLD.
AND...SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN HERE. IN HIDING.
TRYING TO...
...TRYING TO ATONE FOR THE EVIL I HAVE UNLEASHED ON THE WORLD.
WHICH...IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY...IS WHY I WAS TRYING TO FIND YOU.

THE G-BOMBS THAT HAVE BEEN UNLEASHED ON THE WORLD DIDN'T JUST CEMENT THE UNITED STATES AS THE GREATEST EMPIRE IN HISTORY.
THE ENSUING RADIATION FROM THESE ATTACKS...WELL, THE PUBLIC AT LARGE DOES NOT KNOW THIS, BUT...
...EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
...SOMETHING... AMAZING HAPPENS IN THE FALLOUT.
SOMETIMES, THERE ARE SURVIVORS. THE MILITARY CLASSIFIES THEM AS "BIOWASTE CASUALTIES." BUT IN REALITY, THEY--
THEY'RE LIKE ME.

"THEY'RE MONSTERS."

...YES. IT IS... HORRIBLE. I AM SURE THIS MUST BE... DIFFICULT FOR YOU.
WHERE ARE THEY? THESE... "ABOMINATIONS," AS YOU CALL THEM.
I--YOU MUST UNDERSTAND...I WAS FORCED TO BUILD IT. AND--AND I HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SO LONG TO FIND ONE OF THE SUBJECTS, AND THEN--
WHERE. ARE. THEY.
...
WHERE I FOUND YOU.
IN... IN THE VOID.

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU--YOU DESIGNED THIS...THIS WHOLE THING SO YOU COULD DISPOSE OF HULKS?
YOU JUST THROW THEM AWAY?!
NO. I MEAN--YES, BUT THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU BACK! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO STUDY ONE OF THEM, POSSIBLY HEAL THEM.
AND THEN YOUR GAMMA SIGNATURE SPIKED, AND I BROUGHT YOU HERE.
I--I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THEY GO!
HE--HE MADE ME BUILD IT.
WHO?!
WHAT?!
WHO DID THIS?! *WHO IS IN CHARGE?!*
MY--MY FATHER!

"MY FATHER-IN-LAW...
"...PRESIDENT ROSS."
E PLURIBUS UNUM

HULK #1 INFINITY SAGA PHASE 1 VARIANT BY **JOE BENNETT, RUY JOSÉ** & **JAY DAVID RAMOS**

HULK #1 2ND PRINTING CHARACTER SKETCH VARIANT BY **RYAN OTTLEY**

HULK #1 VARIANT BY **DAN JURGENS, BRETT BREEDING** & **ALEX SINCLAIR**

HULK #1 HIDDEN GEM VARIANT BY **HERB TRIMPE** & **JASON KEITH**

HULK #4

WE BELIEVE WE'VE FOUND HIM, PRESIDENT ROSS.
NOW OBVIOUSLY WE CAN'T BE SURE, BUT--
THERE WAS AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF GAMMA-ENERGY SPIKING FROM THIS SPECIFIC MOUNTAIN RANGE.
EARTH-122. THE WHITE HOUSE.
THE--WELL, OF COURSE, SIR. BUT...DO YOU THINK IT'S WISE TO ENTER THE FIELD OF COMBAT YOURSELF?
OUR SOLDIERS ARE MORE THAN EQUIPPED TO BRING IN A LONE SCIENTIST HOLED UP IN A--
NO.
SEND EVERYTHING. AND GET ME ON A DROPSHIP TEN MINUTES AGO.
BRING THE BOY.
I WANT TO SEE IT.

ANTHONY STARK: WEAPONS DEVELOPER. ARMS DEALER. INDUSTRIALIST.
DESIGNATION: HOSTILE. STATUS: DECEASED.
DAILY BUGLE
THE FALL OF STARK
FORMER TECH WIZ FILES FOR BANK
FOLLOWING THE EMERGENCE OF THE GAMMA REVOLUTION, STARK INDUSTRIES BECAME OBSOLETE.
AFTER THE EVENTUAL TAKEOVER OF HIS COMPANY AND THE SUBSEQUENT ABSORPTION OF HIS TECHNOLOGY, ANTHONY STARK FADED FROM THE SPOTLIGHT.
OBITUARY
TONY STA
FIVE YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF HIS EMPIRE, STARK WAS FOUND DEAD OUTSIDE OF A BAR IN THE AREA FORMERLY KNOWN AS QUEENS.
AUTOPSY REPORTS FOUND THE CAUSE OF DEATH TO BE SEVERE LIVER TOXICITY AND COMPLICATIONS FROM SEVERE AND CHRONIC PANCREATITIS.
HE LEFT NO HEIRS.

THE X-MEN: SUPER-POWERED STRIKEFORCE. CHILDREN OF THE ATOM.
DESIGNATION: HOSTILE. STATUS: EXTERMINATED.
THOUGH THEIR ALMOST IMMEDIATE ERADICATION DID NOT ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE GENETIC TESTING...
...THIS SUDDEN OUTBREAK OF "MUTANTKIND" WAS BELIEVED TO BE CREATED BY THE FALLOUT OF GAMMA TESTING.
FOR THE SAFETY OF THE HUMAN RACE, AND FOR THE GOOD OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THIS THREAT WAS QUIETLY DISPOSED OF BEFORE THEIR NUMBERS GREW.
ER'S SCHOOL
FOR
YOUNGSTERS

GOD ALMIGHTY, THIS...
...THIS IS *BARBARIC.*
THIS CAN'T BE REAL. IS THERE...
...IS THERE NO ONE LEFT?
WHAT ABOUT...BLADE, OR-- MOON KNIGHT OR CAPTAIN AMERICA OR, HELL, EVEN SPIDER--
I'M SORRY... BLADE? MOON KNIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST...SAYING WORDS.
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHAT ANY OF THAT MEANS...
THAT'S...

...FINE.
HULK DOESN'T NEED ANYONE.
BWAAAH BWAAHHH
WHAT IS THIS?! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
NO, NO, NO!!!
THEY'VE... THEY'VE FOUND ME...
OH GOD...
OH. YEAH...
WELL...
...LOOK AT THAT...

...SHOULDA SENT MORE.

DON'T WORRY. I'VE GOT THIS.
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BELIEVE ME. I DO.
I'VE DANCED WITH ROSS A FEW TIMES MYSELF.
NOW, I'VE SLAVED MY SHIP'S COMMUNICATIONS TO YOURS.
SO YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO HEAR ME IN THE FIELD, AND I'LL BE ABLE TO LOOK THROUGH YOUR COMPUTER AS WELL.
STAY HERE. STAY LOW.
DON'T COME OUT.
3
CLR
2
THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

ALL RIGHT... LET'S DO THIS!
HULK!!!
FIRE!!!
SMA--

CHOOOM
CHOOOM
&@#$! WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?!
CRITICAL DAMAGE!!! CRITICAL DAMAGE!!!
I GET IT!!! DAMMIT, ALL RIGHT!
ALL ENGINES!
CLIK
STAGE FOUR!

RAGHHH!!!
THE ENGINE ROOM.
PONK
AGH!
DAMMIT, BANNER...
WHAT...?
STAGE FOUR:
OH...
HULK!!!
MARVEL ZOMBIES.
WE HUNGER!

"THE WAVES..."
...THEY DO NOT CRASH ON ME.
RAGHHHH!!!
GOOD...
LORD...
WHAT--WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?
"THEY *BREAK* ON ME..."
RAAAGGH!
...BECAUSE I AM STRONG.

OH... OH MY GOD...
WHAT HAVE I UNLEASHED?
BANNER! PICK UP. I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME. WE'VE TRACKED YOUR RADIO SIGNAL!
I--I NEVER MEANT FOR THIS TO--
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU MEANT! YOU TELL THAT MONSTER YOU CREATED TO STAND DOWN AND TURN YOURSELF IN RIGHT NOW, DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?!
I--I DIDN'T CREATE IT. I CAN'T STOP IT. I--
WELL THEN, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU'RE MUCH USE TO ME, ARE YOU, BRUCE?
THAT'S OKAY.

I'LL JUST HAVE TO SEND YOUR STAR PUPIL IN YOUR PLACE.
NO!!! PLEASE! PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!!! I'LL DO--
TEN SECONDS.
STOP YOUR MONSTER. COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP.
OR THE BOY FALLS.
ROSS, I'M BEGGING YOU! DON'T--
TEN.

BRUCE!!!
NINE.
THIS IS BRUCE. THE--THE OTHER BRUCE.
I GET IT. WHAT? I'M A LITTLE BUSY.
YOU HAVE TO STOP FIGHTING!!!
EIGHT.
...
SEVEN.
SIX.
...WHAT?

FIVE. FOUR. THREE. TWO...
...ONE.
AGH!!!
"BANNER! TALK TO ME!
"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, STOP FIGHTING?!
"WHAT'S HAPPENING?"

EVERYONE IS... RETREATING...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE HELL IS GOING--
THEY... THEY KILLED HIM...
...
WHO? WHO DID THEY KILL?
HIS NAME WAS PETER.
HE WAS A RESEARCH STUDENT OF MINE. HE WAS LIKE--LIKE A SON TO ME.
HE WAS BITTEN BY A SPIDER THAT WE HAD IRRADIATED...
I WAS TRYING... I HAD HOPED TO...
...TO CURE HIM.
UMM...
THIS MIGHT BE A DUMB QUESTION...
...BUT THE SPIDER...
EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF RADIATION ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

KKRRAKKAR-
DOOOOOOM

***HULK* #1** VARIANT BY **ED McGUINNESS** & **LAURA MARTIN**

HULK #5

I WANTED TO BE SO MUCH MORE THAN THIS.
I WANTED TO...PUSH THE BOUNDARIES. EXPLORE THE UNKNOWABLE.
I WANTED TO DISCOVER. INVENT.
CREATE.
INSTEAD...
...ON THIS WORLD AND EVERY WORLD THAT HAS EVER KNOWN THE NAME BRUCE BANNER...
...THE STORY IS ALWAYS THE SAME.
LIKE THIS *ALTERNATE ME*--THE BANNER OF THIS WORLD--ONCE SAID...
...I AM BECOME DEATH.
AGAIN, AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN...
...THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS.

AND TO THINK...
NOW...
...I USED TO BLAME IT ON THE BOMB.
...SHALL WE TRY AGAIN?
YOUR LITTLE PET OUT THERE...
YOUR... WHAT DID YOU CALL IT?
YOUR "HULK"?
IT JUST COST ME THE COLLECTIVE GDP OF AT LEAST THREE OF OUR UNITED CONTINENTS IN MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL ORDNANCE.
AND AS YOU SIT THERE AND STARE AT ME LIKE A LUNATIC, IT'S CURRENTLY TEARING A HOLE THE SIZE OF A METEOR IMPACT RIGHT INTO THE HEARTLAND OF THIS BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY OF OURS WHILST FIGHTING EIGHTY TONS OF VERY-PISSED-OFF MUTANT SPIDER...
SO...
YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE YOU FOUND IT.
HOW YOU'RE... CONTROLLING IT.
AND THEN...
...YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME HOW TO KILL IT.
I HAD HOPED...
HEH...
...HOPED TO FIND SOME SOLACE IN A WORLD FAR AWAY FROM THE ONE I HAD BROKEN.
HA! HAHAHA!!!

FAR AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE I HURT.
"KILL IT"!
HAHAHA!!!
WHO HURT ME.
WHO LOVED ME.
WHO FEARED ME.
WHO NEEDED ME.
BUT NO.
PLEASE, ROSS!
PLEASE... STOP...
THERE IS NO REST IN THE WILD. NO HARBOR TO SHELTER ME FROM THE STORM INSIDE MY MIND.
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT IS THAT THING?! TELL ME!
NO LAND THAT I CAN TREAD UPON THAT WOULD NOT NAME ME RUIN.
HE...
HE'S ME...
...WHEN I'M ANGRY.

NO WORLD I'M NOT A MONSTER.
DOOOOM
GRAGHH!!!
ENGINE STATUS!
STAGE FOUR AND HOLDING.
OKAY.
DEEP BREATH, BIG GUY.
THIS IS GOING TO GET WORSE BEFORE IT GETS BETTER.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
BETTY! NOT NOW!
YOU AREN'T GOING TO *KILL* THAT POOR THING, ARE YOU?
WHAT?!
PWRRR!!!
KRA-KOOOM
HE'S...HE'S JUST A *CHILD.* HE CAN'T HELP WHAT HE IS...
THIS AGAIN.
WHAT IS THIS? SINCE WHEN DO YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT PROTECTING THESE SUPPOSED CHILDREN? WHY IS THIS SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?!
BRUCE...
...I DON'T EXIST...

BOOM
"...BUT I KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LOCK A CHILD AWAY AND ABUSE IT."
RSSPONBLTY!
WHEN YOU TAKE ITS FREEDOMS AWAY--ITS AGENCY--IT...IT BOTTLES IT ALL UP. ALL OF THAT FURY. ALL OF THAT RAGE...
WHEN YOU DO THAT, BRUCE, THE CHILD TURNS INTO WHAT MADE IT.
YOU KNOW THIS... BETTER THAN ANYONE...
"HURT PEOPLE HURT PEOPLE."
RAGHH!!
NOW...YOU HAVE TO ASK YOURSELF...IF YOU LOCK THE HULK AWAY...
...AND YOU KEEP HURTING IT, KEEP MAKING IT ANGRIER... MAKING IT BOTTLE UP ALL OF THAT RAGE...
...WHEN THAT CHILD EXPLODES...
...WHAT WILL HE TURN INTO?
I DON'T KNOW.
LET'S FIND OUT.
5
CLIK

WHA...? WHERE ZOMBIES GO?!
NO...
BANNER, NO!!!
STAGE FIVE: GODS.
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!
LET'S DO THIS.
READY ON MY MARK...
TARGET ACQUIRED!

FIRE!
SMASH
DOOOM

YOU HAVE TO STOP!
PLEASE...I'VE-- I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING.
I JUST... I WAS TRYING TO SOLVE THE BIOWASTE PROBLEM.
ALL OF THOSE...THOSE THINGS WE SEND THROUGH THE PORTAL...THEY HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?* THEY CAN'T JUST BE...GONE!
I THOUGHT IF I COULD FIND ONE... I COULD...CURE THEM. OR... OR ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM. BUT THIS ONE...HE'S...HE'S DIFFERENT. HE CAN'T BE STOPPED. YOU'RE JUST GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE! THIS IS GOING TO EXPLODE IN YOUR--
SHUT UP.
*SPOILER ALERT: THEY SURE DO! STAY TUNED FOR HULK #9 TO FIND OUT!
WHY DON'T YOU BOYS EXCUSE ME AND THE GOOD DOCTOR FOR A MOMENT.
SIR? IS THAT--?
I'LL BE FINE, SON.
BANNER WOULDN'T HURT A FLY.
ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

PL-
PLEASE...
PLEASE... I'M...I'M SORRY...
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT ANYMORE...
I JUST... I WANT TO GO--
OH...OH GOD...
NOT LIKE THIS...

HA. SEE, BETTY? YOU WORRY TOO MUCH. YOU'VE ALWAYS--
DOOOM
AGH!!!
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS HAPPENING?! I--I CAN'T SEE! I DON'T HAVE A VISUAL!
COMPUTER, REPORT!!!
THE HULL HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, SIR.
FULL EVACUATION IS RECOMMENDED.
NO...NO, THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
OH, BRUCE...
...YOU WORRY TOO MUCH.

NOW THAT WE'RE ALONE...
...LET'S CHAT. LET'S BE REAL, *REAL* HONEST, OKAY, SON?
I APPRECIATE YOU TRYING TO SOLVE OUR LITTLE MONSTER PROBLEM... I REALLY DO.
BUT YOU SEE...THE TRUTH OF IT IS...
...THEM THINGS COME IN VERY HANDY NOW AND THEN...
NO...
OH, NOT ALL OF THEM, OF COURSE.
THE WEAK ONES WE TOSS INTO THAT LITTLE PORTAL TRASH CAN OF YOURS.
WE ONLY KEEP THE *STRONG* ONES. WE HAD SOME HELP FROM A FELLA NAMED *RICHARDS.* HE HELPED US...LEASH THEM. MAKE THEM MORE... COMPLIANT.
MORE COOPERATIVE.
YOU... YOU'RE *SICK*...
NO, SON. I'M A *PATRIOT.*
HEH HEH. COME ON...
...HOW DID YOU THINK WE WON ALL THEM WARS?
YOU CAN'T BLAME EVERYTHING ON THE BOMB, SON.

RAGGHH!
BETTY... HELP ME. PLEASE!
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING OUT THERE, I HAVE TO BE IN CONTROL. I HAVE TO FIGHT BACK!
LOOK AT YOU.
HELPLESS. TRAPPED. AT THE MERCY OF FORCES AND VIOLENCE OUT OF YOUR CONTROL...
REMIND YOU OF ANYONE?
BETTY...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOU REALLY NEVER LISTEN, DO YOU?
I TOLD YOU, BRUCE...
...BETTY ISN'T REAL.

CLK
STAGE SIX: DEMONS.
RAGHH!!!

YOU--YOU'RE A MONSTER! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
OH, I ALREADY HAVE.
YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT IS OVER.
PSSHHHH
NO. NO, YOU...
YOU CAN'T JUST USE THEM LIKE THAT!
THOSE ARE PEOPLE!!!
RRRRRR
OH, GROW UP.
THOSE AREN'T PEOPLE ANYMORE, BRUCE...

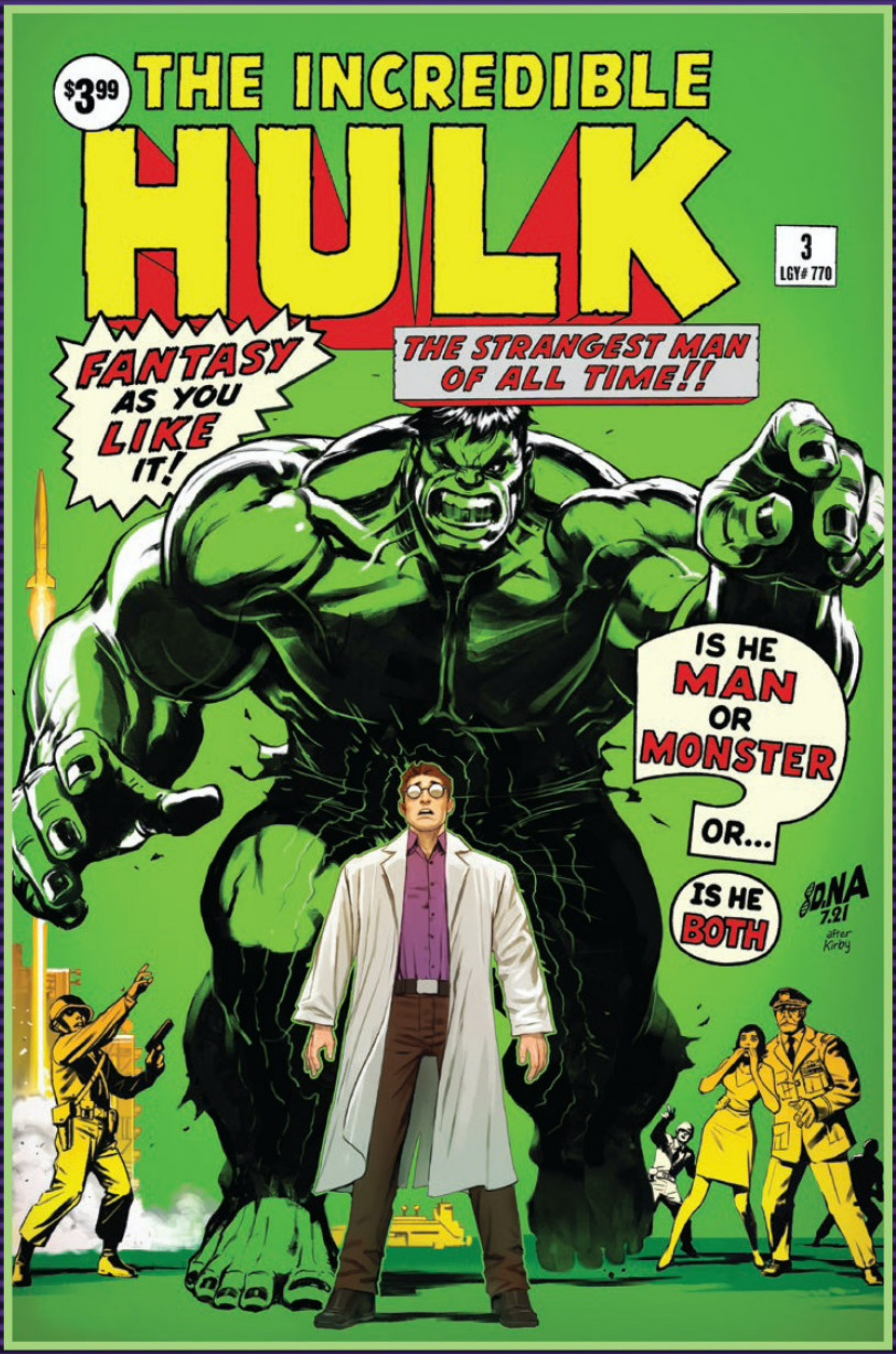
"...THEY'RE ABOMINATIONS."
AGHHHH!!! PLEASE!!!
RAAGGH!!! BANNER!!!
IT REALLY IS SPECTACULAR, ISN'T IT?
THIS THING YOU'VE BUILT.
I KNOW I DON'T SAY THIS ENOUGH...

...BUT I'M PROUD OF YOU, SON.
NO...
IT'S TIME TO LET GO, BRUCE.
DON'T WORRY...
NO!
NOOOO!!!
...WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
8
7
6
CLK
8
CLK
9
CLK

NOW...
...LET'S SEE WHAT THIS THING CAN DO.
RAGGHHH!!!
BOOOOM
AGHHH!

***HULK* #2** DEVIL'S REIGN VARIANT BY
PETE WOODS

***HULK* #2** VARIANT BY
ADAM KUBERT & **ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ**



***HULK* #3** CLASSIC HOMAGE VARIANT BY
DAVID NAKAYAMA

***HULK* #3** HEADSHOT SKETCH VARIANT BY
JIM CHEUNG

HULK #6

"YOU KNOW, I HAVE A THEORY OF MY OWN."
STARSHIP HULK ENGINE ROOM.
EVERYONE ALWAYS SAYS THE SAME THING.
THAT THE HULK IS BRUCE'S ID. THE EMBODIMENT OF A SCARED LITTLE BOY OVERWHELMED WITH IMPOTENT RAGE BECAUSE OF THE ABUSE HE ENDURED WHEN HE WAS *BLAH BLAH BLAH...*
WE'VE ALL HEARD THE SAME SAD LITTLE SONG A MILLION TIMES.
STARSHIP HULK COMMAND DECK.
"I SUPPOSE THERE ARE OTHER, DEEPER THEORIES... BUT THAT SEEMS TO BE THE PREVAILING ONE.
"BUT...SOMETHING ABOUT IT JUST NEVER FELT...COMPLETE."
STARSHIP HULK.
IT ALWAYS SEEMED LIKE SO MUCH...WASTED POTENTIAL.
WELL. HERE. LET "BETTY" SHOW YOU.
TAKE FOR EXAMPLE...

"THE HULK'S PERSONALITY HAS BEEN TRAPPED IN THE ENGINE ROOM OF THIS RIDICULOUS 'STARSHIP' FOR SOME TIME NOW.
"CAGED. ABUSED. AND MADE TO PERFORM A LEVEL OF VIOLENCE AND MAYHEM THAT, WELL...I MEAN, LOOK AT IT. IT'S INSANE.
"IT'S CRUEL. INHUMANE.
"I'VE THROTTLED THE ENGINE TO STAGE NINE.
"(IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT STAGE TEN IS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL.)
"STAGE NINE INCLUDES THE COMBINED MIGHT OF THE KREE, THE SH'IAR, THE INHUMANS, SILVER SURFER...
"...AND THE SO-CALLED 'UNIVERSAL CONSTANTS' LIKE THE LIVING TRIBUNAL, THANOS, ADAM WARLOCK AND THE PHOENIX FORCE.
"AH, YES. AND GALACTUS.
"WHO...FOR WHATEVER REASON...
"...APPEARS TO BE A HULK."

WHICH, I SUPPOSE, BRINGS ME TO MY POINT...
"OVER THE YEARS, THERE'VE BEEN SO MANY HULKS.
"GREY ONES, RED ONES, BLUE ONES, WOLVERINE ONES...
"IT SEEMS TO ME THAT... WELL, *EVERYONE* GETS TO HAVE A HULK THESE DAYS...

"BRUCE HAS A HULK."
RICK HAD A HULK.
ROSS HAD A HULK.
"JENNIFER HAS A HULK.
"AMADEUS HAD A HULK."
HELL...
...EVEN *GOD* HAS A HULK.
"SO REALLY... IT'S UNFAIR, ISN'T IT?
"I MEAN..."
...WHY CAN'T THE *HULK* HAVE A HULK?

RAGGHHH!!!

RAGGH!!!
BANNER!!!
...THESE-- THESE WAVES... DO NOT CRASH OVER ME...
...THEY BREAK ON ME.
BANNER!!!
BWAAAH
BANNER, PLEASE!!!
HELP HULK!!!
...BECAUSE I AM STRONG.

IT'S DOING WHAT?!
WE DON'T KNOW, PRESIDENT ROSS. IT JUST--IT CHANGED! IT'S--GOD, IT MUST BE THIRTY FEET TALL! I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHERS. IT'S...
...IT'S A TITAN!
ALL RIGHT, DAMMIT. WE ARE BRINGING THIS THING DOWN!
I WANT A BOMBER IN THE AIR TEN MINUTES AGO. SEE HOW THIS THING ENJOYS--
WAIT. NO! NO, YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
THAT'S INSANE. YOU CAN'T DROP ONE OF THOSE OUT THERE. THERE ARE AT LEAST THREE MAJOR CITIES WITHIN THE BLAST RADIUS OF--
SIT DOWN, BANNER.
NO! LISTEN TO ME. YOU CANNOT DROP A GAMMA BOMB ON A HULK AND EXPECT IT TO--
SIT.
DOWN.

PLEASE...
YOU'LL KILL THOUSANDS...
WE BOTH WILL.
WE'RE DOING THIS TOGETHER. RIGHT, SON?
BIRD IS IN THE AIR, MISTER PRESIDENT. TEN MINUTES UNTIL TOUCHDOWN.
THAT'S WHAT I LIKE TO HEAR. SEE?
THAT WASN'T SO HARD. NOW GET ME COMMS ON THE LINE. WE'RE GOING TO NEED A HELL OF A STORY TO SELL TO THE LAMBS WHEN WE GET THIS--
AGGHHH!!!

BOOOOM
BOOOOM
BOOOOM
SHUT... SHUT IT DOWN...
BOOOM
OH, BRUCE...
YOU HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN!
OR WHAT?
YOU'LL GET *ANGRY?*

YOU HAVE NO POWER HERE.
YOU HAVE NO CONTROL HERE.
I KNOW.
KRRAKK
FLIP
BWAAHH BWAAHH BWAAHH BWAAHH BWAAHH
BUT *HE* DOES.
BWAAHH BWAAHH BWAAHH
NO...
NO!!!

BWAAHH
BWAAHH
BWAAHH
BWAAHH
BWAAHH

BOOM
BANNER!!!
BANNER! PUT IT DOWN!!! WE CAN STILL TALK ABOUT--
NO! NO MORE TALKING! THIS--
--IS OVER. WHATEVER YOU ARE...
...YOU CAN'T CONTROL ME ANYMORE.
LISTEN TO YOURSELF!!! YOU AREN'T--
--A KILLER, SON.
YOU DON'T HAVE IT IN YOU.

NO.
RAWWWWRR!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I AM.
BOOOM
BWAAA AAAHH
AGHHH!!!!!!

I... I DID IT...
I... FINALLY--
OH...

OH GOD, NO...
BANNER...
WELCOME HOME.
PAYLOAD HAS BEEN DELIVERED, MISTER PRESIDENT.
MISTER PRESIDENT?

BANNER!
COMPUTER! INITIATE REPAIR SEQUENCE! NOW!!!
BRUCE! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
BRUCE, COME IN!
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HEAR ME OR NOT...
...BUT ROSS HAS LAUNCHED A G-BOMB TO STOP YOU. THE FALLOUT WILL KILL THOUSANDS AND I--I CAN'T STOP IT...
...BUT I'VE GAINED ACCESS TO THE SYSTEMS IN MY LABORATORY. IF YOU CAN GET THERE, I BELIEVE WE CAN WORK TOGETHER TO MINIMIZE THE DESTRUCTION.
BUT-- PLEASE. LISTEN TO ME...
BANNER!!!
ARGH!!!
...YOU HAVE TO RUN!!!

COMPUTER, CLOSE THE ENGINE ROOM DOOR!
BANNER! HULK...
AGH!!!
HULK...
HULK SORRY...
CLANK

BRUCE! COME IN! PLEASE, COME IN! WE DON'T HAVE--
I'M...I'M HERE.
I READ YOU.
WHAT CAN I DO?
OH, THANK GOD!
NOW LISTEN CLOSELY!
"I NEED YOU TO OVERLOAD THE ENERGY SIGNATURE TO THE PORTAL THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE.
"OPEN IT AS WIDE AS YOU CAN!"
THE PORTAL IS DESIGNED TO--
RETRIEVE GAMMA SIGNATURES. OF COURSE.
WHEN THE BOMB DETONATES, THE FALLOUT WILL BE ABSORBED BY THE--

BRUCE! IT'S WORKING! THE RADIATION! IT'S BEING SIPHONED OFF AND ABSORBED...
THANK YOU. I'M SORRY IT HAD TO END LIKE THIS, BUT--
IT'S OKAY...
...THIS WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BLOW UP IN MY FACE.
CLK
BRUCE... ARE YOU STILL THERE?
I'M NOT SURE WHERE THAT PORTAL WILL SEND YOU...

"...BUT PLEASE... WHEREVER YOU GO..."
RAGHHHH!!!
...I HOPE, I PRAY, THAT YOU DON'T END UP LIKE ME...
"...DO NOT BECOME ANOTHER WEAPON...
"USE WHAT YOU HAVE... THIS...GREAT, INDESTRUCTIBLE MIRACLE OF YOURS...
PROXIMITY ALERT!!! INCOMING FIRE!
"USE IT FOR GOOD.
"INCOMING"? OUT HERE? WHO IN THE HELL COULD EVEN FIND US OUT--?
"USE IT...
OH...
...GREAT.

"...FOR PEACE."

HULK #3 VARIANT BY **TRADD MOORE** & **HEATHER MOORE**

**HULK VS. THOR:
BANNER OF WAR ALPHA**

GREETINGS. I...AM THE WATCHER.
MY SWORN DUTY...IS TO WITNESS AND CATALOG SUCH... SEISMIC EVENTS THAT WOULD SHAPE AND ALTER THE COURSE OF HISTORY ITSELF.
I AM CALLED UATU.
AND I AM HERE TO BEAR WITNESS TO THE GREATEST BATTLE THAT ANY WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN. A BATTLE BETWEEN TWO LEGENDARY AND UNBREAKABLE FOES...
THE MIGHTY THOR. AND THE INCREDIBLE HULK.
THESE TWO LEVIATHANS HAVE FOUGHT IN THE PAST, THIS IS TRUE...
BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
NO. THIS TIME...RAGE AND THUNDER SHALL COLLIDE IN A WAR SO BRILLIANT AND AWESOME THAT STORIES OF IT WILL BE SUNG FOR UNTOLD MILLENNIA.
MAKE NO MISTAKE-- THIS...
...THIS IS A BATTLE UNLIKE ANY YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.
BUT FIRST...
ALLOW ME TO BRING YOU UP TO SPEED, AS IT WERE...

"AFTER THE WAR OF THE REALMS, ODIN GAVE THE CROWN AND THRONE OF ASGARD TO HIS SON THOR.
"IN HIS BRIEF TIME AS KING, THOR HAS BEEN MET WITH CHALLENGES THAT WOULD HAVE BENT LESSER BEINGS TO THEIR KNEES.
"IN THE BEGINNING... THERE WAS GALACTUS...
"...AND THE DIRE REVELATIONS THAT LAY WITHIN THE ENTITY THAT CALLED ITSELF THE BLACK WINTER...
"IN THE END, THOR DESTROYED GALACTUS IN A GRAND ACT OF DEFIANCE.
"HE ALSO KILLED THE BLACK WINTER. OR... SO HE THOUGHT...
"(THAT FATE IS NOT FOR ME TO SPEAK OF AND IS A TALE FOR ANOTHER TIME...)
"AND THEN THERE WERE THE VISIONS. OF THE MAD TITAN...OF THE ENTROPY OF EXISTENCE...
"...THE EMERGENCE OF THE GOLDEN SHADOW-- OF DONALD BLAKE, DRIVEN MAD AND TRAPPED. NOW CHAINED FOREVER UPON THE ROCK OF ETERNITY...
"...AND THEN...THE CRUELEST OF ALL OF THE THUNDER KING'S TRIALS...
"...THE POSSESSION OF MJOLNIR BY THE BILLION RAGING SOULS OF THE MANGOG...
"A BATTLE WON...BUT AT A GREAT PRICE. MJOLNIR SHATTERED.
"AND ODIN...THOR'S FATHER AND THE FORMER RULER OF THE LAND OF ASGARD...
"...LAY DEAD IN THOR'S VERY ARMS.
"BUT...NOT GONE.
"ODIN'S SOUL BECAME TRAPPED IN MJOLNIR ITSELF.
"SPEAKING IN A VOICE THAT ONLY THOR CAN HEAR.
"AND SO IT WAS...THAT A GRIEVING, VENGEFUL KING WAS TOLD BY HIS RAVENS THAT THE HULK HAD BEEN FOUND IN A LAND FAR FROM THOSE THAT HE HAD KNOWN.
"A TIMELY GIFT FOR A GOD IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOMETHING TO HIT.

"AND THEN THERE IS BRUCE BANNER.
"AND THE HULK.
"AND THE ENGINE ROOM.
"RECENTLY, BRUCE BANNER--WITH THE HELP OF SOME UNSEEN MAGICAL HAND--HAS BUILT A *MIND PALACE* INSIDE OF THE HULK'S BODY.
"HE HAS ASSUMED CONTROL OF THE PHYSICAL FORM OF THE HULK AND NOW '*PILOTS*' THIS...*HULK SHIP* FROM THE DECK OF HIS COMMAND CENTER.
"THE SHIP ITSELF IS POWERED BY THE HULK'S OWN PERSONA...
"...TRAPPED IN THE '*ENGINE ROOM*' AND TORTURED BY A SERIES OF NEVER-ENDING AND ALWAYS-GROWING ADVERSARIES.
"IN SHORT...
"...THE HOTTER THE ENGINE ROOM BURNS...
"...THE STRONGER THE HULK SHIP BECOMES.
9 8 7 6 5 4
"IT WAS WITH THIS POWER THAT BRUCE SET OUT TO SEARCH THROUGH THE MULTIVERSE OF DIMENSIONS TO FIND A PLACE OF SOLACE.
"SOMEWHERE THE HEROES OF EARTH COULD NOT FIND HIM...
"...COULD NOT PERSECUTE HIM FOR HIS CRIMES IN A PLACE CALLED *EL PASO*...
"WHATEVER THE TRUTH ABOUT THESE CRIMES IS...
"...EVEN *I* DO NOT KNOW...
"BUT PERHAPS WE SHALL SOON FIND OUT...
"...BECAUSE...IN THIS VERY MOMENT...
"...AGAINST A BATTLEGROUND OF STRANGE AND UNSEEN WORLDS...
"...ROARING ACROSS THE IN-BETWEEN SPACES OF REALITY...
"...IT IS HERE...

"...THAT OUR STORIES COLLIDE."
STOP THIS, BANNER!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! SOMEWHERE DEEP INSIDE!
CONTROL YOUR RAGE AND--
THOR.
SHUT UP.
WHUMP

"SAKK-REEN.
"A WRETCHED PLANET FILLED WITH DISEASE-PLAGUED, WAR MONGERING CANNIBALS THAT DEVOUR THE EYES OF THEIR YOUNG TO APPEASE THEIR ALL-KNOWING PAIN GOD.
"IT SMELLS OF COTTON CANDY. AND PUPPY PAWS. AND THE PAIN GOD IS ALWAYS HAPPY."
BOOOM
BOOOOM
I CAN HEAR YOU JUST FINE.

GET UP, BOY! IF THE APE WANTS A BATTLE, THEN LET'S--
WILL YOU LET ME HANDLE THIS, FATHER?
HE'S CLOSING IN!
I NEED A FULL SYSTEM AND ENGINE CHECK.
COMPUTER, RUN A DIAGNOSTIC ON HULL INTEGRITY BEFORE WE--
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE LIKE THE OTHER FIGHTS, BRUCE.
DAMMIT, BOY, JUST LISTEN TO ME! LET ME LOOSE AND I'LL--
THERE ARE INNOCENT CREATURES ON THIS PLANET! I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO WAGE ALL-OUT WAR UNTIL--
OH, GROW UP AND GET TO WORK, SON! THIS PLANET WILL--
NAY, DAMN YOU! SIF WILL FIND US A SUITABLE PLACE FOR COMBAT AND--
YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE. DO YOU *REALLY* THINK YOU CAN BEAT HIM THIS TIME? AFTER EVERYTHING THAT--
ENOUGH, *"BETTY"*! JUST--
--LEAVE ME ALONE!!!
--THAT IS FINAL!

WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
AGHHHH!!
AYE! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

OKAY. LET'S DO THIS.
KLK
BANNER!!!
I AWAIT YOUR ORDERS, THOR. GIVE ME A PLACE. ANYWHERE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, BOY?! LET'S TEAR THIS EMERALD IDIOT INTO--
SIF!!! ANYWHERE!!! SOMEWHERE WE CAN DO BATTLE SAFELY!!!
BUT DO IT NOW!!!
UM...
...OKAY...
WOOOOM

BWAAAAAAH
"THE BLACK HAND OF GOD.
"BUILT FROM THE SEVERED HAND OF A CELESTIAL, IT IS HOME TO THE GREATEST AND MOST GRUESOME FIGHTING TOURNAMENTS ANY UNIVERSE HAS EVER KNOWN.
"WHERE GALACTIC FORTUNES ARE WON AND LOST BY THE TEARING OF FLESH, THE SPEED OF THE BLADE, OR THE METTLE OF A WARRIOR'S HEART.
BOOOOM
BOOM
"HERE, CHAMPIONS ARE FORGED FOREVER IN BLOOD AND BONE. THEIR NAMES CARVED INTO THE HALLS OF ETERNITY.
"IT IS KNOWN BY ALL WHO QUEST ACROSS THE STARS AS THE MOST VIOLENT, VICIOUS AND GORE-SOAKED CORNER OF HELL TO EVER EXIST IN THE MULTIVERSE."
SIF... WHERE HAVE YOU...?
UM...WELL, IT WOULD SEEM WE HAVE SOME NEW CHALLENGERS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!!!
THE POPCORN IS... ALSO QUITE NICE.
PLACE YOUR BETS NOW! AS WE PRESENT...
THE GREEN SCAR!!!
THE INDESTRUCTIBLE, IMMORTAL HULK!
VS
THE GOLDEN AVENGER! THE THUNDER KING!
THE MIGHTY THOR!!!

HULK
VS
THOR
ROUND ONE!
FIGHT!

THOR! LISTEN TO ME! YOU CAN'T--
SEVENTEEN!!!
BOOOOM
SEVENTEEN? WHAT...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALREADY?!
IS KILLING THIS EASY FOR YOU NOW?
BOOOM
SEVENTEEN, BRUCE.

CHUNK
AGHH!!!
RRR... GET...YOUR HAMMER...
SEVENTEEN PEOPLE DEAD IN EL PASO.
SEVENTEEN DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU.
I AM SORRY, BRUCE. BUT I BELIEVE YOU AND I BOTH KNOW IT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO END THIS WAY.
ONE CAN ONLY CAGE A MONSTER FOR SO LONG.
AND SO THIS FALLS TO ME, OLD FRIEND. I'M AFRAID THIS IS GOODBYE. IF IT EASES YOU...I WILL NOT REVEL IN THIS VICTORY. I WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOU AS--
RAAAGHHH!!! THAT WASN'T ME!!!
THOR! PLEASE! LET ME UP AND I CAN--
PLEASE. STOP. MJOLNIR WILL NOT BE MOVED. AND NEITHER SHALL I.
RAAGHHHH!!!

COMPUTER, INCREASE ENGINE ROOM TO LEVEL EIGHT AND HOLD.
BUT SIR. WE ARE PINNED DOWN BY THE HAMMER OF THOR. IT CANNOT BE MOVED. NO MATTER HOW STRONG OR ANGRY WE--
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
...YOUR MEMORY FILES, SIR. I HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY FIGHT THAT YOU HAVE--
EXACTLY. GIVE ME FULL HAPTICS. SLAVE CONTROLS TO ME.
I'M GOING IN.
SIR, I HIGHLY RECOMMEND AGAINST THIS COURSE OF ACTION.
NOTED. WE'VE FOUGHT HIM AND BEAT HIM BEFORE.

I'M NOT SCARED.
SIR, IF I MAY... THE HULK HAS FOUGHT HIM.
NOT YOU.
EXACTLY.
WE'VE FOUGHT HARDER...
...LET'S FIGHT SMARTER.
RUN DIAGNOSTICS. I NEED DATA. I NEED EVERY FIGHT.
SIR?
YOU SAID YOU HAVE ACCESS TO EVERY FIGHT WE'VE EVER HAD, RIGHT? EVERY TIME THE HULK HAS CLASHED WITH THOR?
FILES FOUND, SIR. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT--?
GIVE IT TO ME. I WANT TO FEEL IT.
EVERY PUNCH. EVERY BATTLE. I WANT TO FEEL IT!
DO IT!!! DO IT RIGHT N--

RAAAGHHH!!!

RUUAGGHHH!!
no...
GODS...
UGHH... HGHHH...
RHGGHPPP

THOR.
PICK UP YOUR HAMMER.
AYE.
NOW.
WHERE WERE WE?

OH YEAH... HULK!
SMASH!!!
AGHH!
KOOOMMM
GET UP, BOY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M-- TRYING, DAMN YOU!
FINE. MUST I DO EVERYTHING?!
TRYING WHAT?
TRYING TO BREATHE? TO MOVE?
SORRY, THOR. I TRIED TO REASON WITH YOU. I DID.
BUT YOU ARE NOT GOING TO TAKE ME IN. I'M SORRY, I AM, BUT THIS IS WHERE THIS--
...ENDS?
BOOOM

RMMMBBBLL
HA! IS THAT RAIN?! YOU THINK YOUR THUNDERSTORMS ARE GOING TO HURT ME?!
NOT... THUNDER...
WHAT?
THAT WAS MJOLNIR...
...BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER.
... WHAT?
KRAKATHOOOOOM

BOOOM
THOR, LISTEN TO ME. WHEN I STRUCK HULK, I...FELT SOMETHING. SOMETHING IS--
--WRONG. YES, I FEEL IT AS WELL. IT'S AS IF HE'S POSSESSED...
NOT POSSESSED. NO...
"...HAUNTED."
UGGHH...
LET ME LOOSE, SON. I HAVE AN IDEA...
AYE.
BANNER! IF YOU WILL NOT RELENT--IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN TO REASON...
BOOOM

...THEN PERHAPS YOU WILL LISTEN TO THIS!
EVASIVE MANEUVERS! NOW! NOW! N--
BOOOOOOM
BOOM
AGHH!!!
BRUCE BANNER...
NO...

...I WOULD HAVE WORDS WITH THEE.

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA VARIANT BY
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.

THOR #25

AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
WE FOUND HIM.

THIS IS...
WHAT IS THIS?
THAT... THAT IS--
IT'S AN ARENA. LOCALS CALL IT THE BLACK HAND OF GOD. A SEVERED HAND OF A CELESTIAL RETROFITTED FOR INTERGALACTIC BLOOD SPORT AND BURIED IN THE DEEPEST REACHES OF UNCHARTED SPACE.
YEAH...
...IT'S AWESOME.
I WAS GOING TO SAY TERRIFYING.
BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SURE HE'S THERE? HOW DID YOU FIND THIS PLACE?
I HAVE A NETWORK OF DEEP SPACE SATELLITES SLAVED TO MY INTERNAL MAINFRAME. THEY CONSTANTLY SWEEP FOR ACTIVITY IN PLACES EXPLORED OR NOT.
YESTERDAY, WE PICKED UP A SOUND.
A SOUND? IN--
YES. A SOUND. IN SPACE. SOMETHING SO LOUD THAT ITS VIBRATIONAL FREQUENCY COMPLETELY FRIED ONE OF MY SPACE BABIES.
FROM THERE, I TRIANGULATED THE SOURCE OF THE SONIC DISTURBANCE AND ISOLATED IT.
YOU KNOW WHAT IT WAS?
IT WAS A VOICE, REED. A VOICE SO LOUD THAT IT BLEW A SATELLITE OUT OF THE SKY FROM TWO THOUSAND MILES AWAY.
IT SAID "HULK. SMASH."

WELL...THAT IS... IMPRESSIVE, TONY. NO DISRESPECT INTENDED, BUT I HAD NO IDEA YOU HAD THOSE KINDS OF RESOURCES OR FRANKLY, THE SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW TO SWEEP THE DEPTHS OF UNKNOWN SPACE LIKE THAT. AND THEN TO--
I'M KIDDING, REED. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO DO ANY OF THAT.
THOR'S RAVENS TOLD ME WHERE HULK IS.
RAVENS? WHAT...?
...
HUH?
OKAY, LISTEN. WE KNOW WHERE HE IS.
IF THOR IS ALREADY ENGAGED WITH BANNER, I SAY WE HANG TIGHT UNTIL WE HAVE MORE INTEL.
STEVE IS RIGHT. IF THE EVENTS OF *EL PASO* HAVE TAUGHT US ANYTHING...IT'S THAT IT'S TIME WE STOPPED LYING TO OURSELVES ABOUT WHAT BRUCE IS CAPABLE OF.
MM-HMM. YEAH.
NO, I'M GONNA GO FIGHT HIM.

ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I AM TELLING YOU TO STAND DOWN!
I WASN'T ASKING FOR PERMISSION.
YOU'RE NOT UNDERSTANDING ME, CAP.
HULK. BRUCE... WHATEVER THE HELL HE IS NOW...
I LOOKED INTO HIS EYES WHEN HE--
--INITIATE THRUSTER SEQUENCE--
--WHEN HE ATTACKED ME IN WUNDAGORE.*
*SEE HULK #1. --WIL
HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME.
HE TRIED...TO KILL ME.
AND, WELL...I GOTTA TELL YA, CAP: I DIDN'T CARE FOR IT.
SO...ONCE AGAIN--
THRUSTERS AT FULL CAPACITY AND HOLDING.
--STAND BY FOR LAUNCH COMMAND--
--I'M GONNA GO KICK HIS ASS.
AND I HAVE A NICE NEW TOY I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT WILL--
WAIT. ARE YOU HERE?
I'M NEVER AT THESE MEETINGS, CAP.
I HAVE PLACES TO BE.
LAUNCH.

THREE.
SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE, CAP.
TWO.
TONY!!!
ONE.
KRAKKA-DOOOOM

KRAK
AGH!!!
STARSHIP HULK COMMAND DECK.
I AM NO MAN OF SCIENCE, BRUCE BANNER.
BUT I AM WILLING TO WAGER THAT KILLING YOU WILL BRING THIS MONSTER DOWN AS WELL.
I DO NOT WISH THIS TO COME TO THAT.
BUT I WILL IF I MUST.
YOU'RE NOT A MAN AT ALL, ODIN.
YOU'RE A GHOST.
THHP
THHP
AND YOU'RE IN MY HOUSE.

...BANNER?
RAGH!!! DAMN YOU!!!
DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD WALK IN HERE?
THAT I WOULD BE *AFRAID* OF YOU?
...ARE YOU...IN THERE?
YOU MAY BE POWERFUL, OLD MAN.
BUT IN HERE...
...*I'M* GOD.

COMPUTER! INITIATE AUTO DEFENSES!
GAH!!!
FIRE!
BRAKA-
BRAKA-
BRAKA-
BRAKA-
BRAKA
ARGGG!!!

THERE. NOW LET'S YOU AND I--
BOOOM
HUU!!!
AGGHH!!!
WAIT. WAIT...NO... JUST HAVE TO--
HKK--
NOT BAD FOR A GHOST, EH, BOY?

THAT!
IS!!
ENOUGH!!!
BOOOOOM
AGH!

BANNER.
BANNER, WAKE UP!
WHAT IN THE *HEL* HAVE YOU DONE?! WHERE AM I?
WH-WHAT IS HAPPENING?
YOU TELL ME.
WE'RE IN *YOUR* HEAD, DOCTOR.
OH.
OH GOD. NO...

WE'RE IN *EL PASO.*
THIS...
...THIS IS WHERE IT HAPPENED.
I...I CAN'T BE HERE. WHY IS THIS HAPPENING? I LOCKED THIS AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS AGAIN! I DON'T...
YOUR DEFENSES ARE DOWN. YOUR MIND IS EXPOSED. AND THIS IS WHERE IT'S TAKEN US.
IT WASN'T... IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...
WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BANNER? WHY ARE *YOU SO AFRAID?*
THE HULK...
...WE FACED DOWN THE DEVIL AND WALKED AWAY. WE SURVIVED.
WE... FORGAVE EACH OTHER.
DECIDED TO SEE THE WORLD IN A NEW WAY.
TO *SAVE* THE WORLD.
TOGETHER.

AND THEN WE CAME *HERE*.
THERE HAD BEEN REPORTS OF SOMETHING KILLING PEOPLE ALONG THE BORDER. PEOPLE WHO...
...WHO JUST WANTED A BETTER LIFE.
SO IT FOUND YOU? IS THAT IT? IT CAME HERE, AND YOU--
NO.
THE MONSTER NEVER SHOWED.
AGH!
HEY!
AH, SORRY, PAL.
BUT SOMETHING ELSE DID.
I COULD FEEL IT...
HULK'S RAGE INSIDE OF ME...
...BOILING.
HGH!
I'M--I'M SORRY. QUICK TEMPER, *HAHA*. HEY, WHY DON'T YOU LET ME BUY YOU ANOTHER--
IT--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DESCRIBE IT. IT WAS DIFFERENT. LIKE IT WAS...
...COMING OFF OF ME. LIKE I WAS... CONTAGIOUS.
OH MAN! YOUR SKIN! YOU'RE BURNING UP! YOU'RE--

PUNY BANNER!
WHA--? NO!!! NO, YOU CAN'T--
AGHH!!!
DEATH
AND THEN IT SPREAD.
ALL OF THEM. INFECTED.
BY RAGE.

BY ME.
BY HIM.
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES AGAIN... WHEN I COULD MOVE--
--I SAW BLACK.
DEAD
THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.
SOMETHING NEW.
SOMETHING HORRIFYING.
AND I...

"...I WAS HELPLESS.
"LOCKED INSIDE OF MY OWN BODY.
"UNABLE TO STOP.
"POWERLESS AS THIS THING...
"...RIPPED EVERYONE IN THE ROOM TO PIECES.
"IT WOULDN'T STOP. IT COULDN'T BE STOPPED.
"AND...AND IT MADE ME WATCH.
"I WASN'T ALLOWED TO EVEN BLINK AS IT USED MY BODY AS A WEAPON.
"I COULD SCREAM.
"I COULD FEEL TEARS WET ON MY CHEEKS.
"I COULD HEAR MYSELF TELLING THESE MEN TO RUN.
"THAT I WAS SORRY.
"BUT NO ONE COULD HEAR ME OVER THE SOUNDS OF ROARING AND BREAKING BONES.
"AND THEN... SUDDENLY..."

...IT WAS OVER.
I STOOD THERE ALL NIGHT, WATCHING THE FIRE.
WISHING THAT I WAS INSIDE OF IT.
HOPING THAT SOMEONE WOULD COME. TO SAVE ME...
...TO KILL ME.
BUT THEY NEVER DID.
SO THAT'S WHEN I DECIDED. IF THAT FURY THAT'S INSIDE OF ME CANNOT BE TAMED--CANNOT BE FORGIVEN OR MENDED--
--EVEN AFTER BEATING THE DEVIL...
...THEN I WOULD USE IT. LIKE HE USED ME.
GODS...BUT HOW? HOW DID YOU BUILD ALL OF THIS? THERE ARE GREAT MAGICS AT WORK HERE. HOW DID YOU--
RMMMMMMBBLLL
WHAT IS THIS? WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THOR! NO, DAMN YOU! NOT YET! NOT--
AGHH!!!

FWWWSHS
FWWAP
DAMN YOU, BOY! I NEED MORE TIME. SEND ME BACK!
THAT'S JUST IT, FATHER.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE TIME.
WHAT IN THE HEL IS THAT?
THE CAVALRY.
OH GOD. OH GOD. NO...
PLEASE! COME BACK! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! HE DOESN'T KNOW!
"HE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S NOT IN A SIMULATION!!!"
HEY BRUCE. LONG TIME NO SMASH.
SORRY TO HAVE TO DO THIS, BIG GUY...

...BUT I'M GONNA HAVE TO ASK YOU TO STEP OUT OF THE VEHICLE.

THOR #25 VARIANT BY
JOHN ROMITA JR., KLAUS JANSON & **JASON KEITH**

HULK #7

LIGHTS BURN THE SKY IN HIS MIND.
AND THOUGH IT IS A MIND ACCUSTOMED TO THE FIRE...
...TO THE RAGE...
...HE YET WEEPS.
I'M SO SORRY...
FOR MORE THAN MOST EVER HAVE...
...AND FEW ELSE EVER WILL...
...BRUCE BANNER KNOWS WHAT THE FIRE BRINGS.
...FOR WHAT YOU'VE UNLEASHED.

HE KNOWS WHAT THE RAGE AWAKENS.
ARRRRRGGH!

THE BLACK HAND OF GOD LAYS EMPTY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MILLENNIA.
ITS KNUCKLES UNCLENCHED AS THE POWER OF A CELESTIAL SUN SCORCHES ITS PALM.
THE LAST REMAINING JACKALS AND MORBIDLY CURIOUS GHOULS OF THIS QUADRANT SQUABBLE AND COLLECT THEIR UNEARNED WINNINGS AS THE BIFROST SCATTERS THEM TO THE WINDS.
WHAT COMES NEXT WILL HAVE NO WITNESSES. NO WATCHERS.
NONE SAVE THOR.
THE VOICE OF HIS DEAD FATHER RINGING IN HIS EAR...
...AND THE SMELL OF BURNING FLESH. ANCIENT, CELESTIAL, AND LONG DEAD...
AND BEHIND IT, THE ROARING OF MUSCLE AND SINEW.
BURNING AND GROWING, YET STILL UNDER THE HEAT OF A COSMIC MAELSTROM...
...WHICH UNLEASHES AN INFINITE OCEAN OF PAIN THAT HUMANKIND CANNOT PERCEIVE...
...UPON A CREATURE THAT KNOWS NOT WHY IT MUST SUFFER.

A CREATURE... REBORN.
SET FREE FROM A CAGE MADE FROM HIS REFLECTION.
UM... B.O.S.S.? WHAT'S GOING ON?
IT WASN'T EASY TURNING THIS CELESTIAL'S BODY INTO HULKBUSTER ARMOR THAT COULD DRAIN THE GAMMA RADIATION OUT OF HULK SO WE COULD SAFELY APPREHEND HIM. DON'T GET ME WRONG, IT'S DOING ITS JOB...
...BUT A) THIS IS AN INSANE AMOUNT OF GAMMA, AND B) HOW IS HE STILL STANDING? SHOULDN'T HE BE...YOU KNOW, SMALLER?
INCORRECT. POWER LEVELS SURGING. GAMMA RADIATION INCREASING.
WHAT?? FROM WHERE?!
FROM HIS SHADOW.
FROM THE ONLY MAN HE KNEW AS FRIEND.
ONLY TO FACE THE WRATH OF A GOD.
AND THE CELESTIAL JUDGMENT OF A HUNDRED THOUSAND EXPLODING STARS.
IT IS TOO MUCH.
IT IS TOO MUCH.

IT IS TOO MUCH.
AGGHH!!! FALL DOWN, DAMN YOU!
IT IS...
...TOO MUCH.
IT IS...
BOOOOM

...TOO MUCH.
VOOOOOOOMM
ALERT. CRITICAL DAMAGE TO INTERNAL SYSTEMS.
→COUGH← YEAH! YEAH, I FELT THAT! THANKS!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT? HOW IS BANNER *THAT* STRONG? IS THAT EVEN POSS--
YOU HAVE SUSTAINED MULTIPLE BROKEN RIBS AND A FRACTURED COLLARBONE. INITIATING CELESTIAL SELF-HEALING PROTOCOLS AND DIAGNOSTICS.
IT IS...
ADMINISTERING SEDATIVE AND SLAVING CONTROLS TO--
NO! NO. GET ME UP. I NEED TO--
...WAIT. WHAT THE...?

...ENOUGH.
TONY...
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME IN THERE... STAY DOWN.

UH, HEY, BUD.
IT'S ME. IRON MAN.
OF THE AVENGERS? THE TEAM YOU'RE ON? YOU...YOU CALLED ME HERE?? NOW YOU TRY TO KILL ME? WHAT THE HELL, MAN?!
I APOLOGIZE, OLD FRIEND. THAT WAS...NOT OF MY OWN DOING.
MY...HAMMER... IT...REACTED... POORLY. IT IS STUBBORN AND OLD AND...INCREASINGLY DEFIANT.
I'M SORRY. YOU...YOUR HAMMER??
HOW MANY TIMES ARE WE GOING TO SING THIS SONG, THOR?
I THOUGHT YOU KILLED THE BIG, BLUE LIGHTNING LADY THAT WAS MAKING YOUR HAMMER EVIL--DIDN'T WE JUST DO THAT?
GOTTA SAY, THIS ISN'T GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON THE QUARTERLIES, BIG GUY.
JUST TELL HIM, DAMMIT! MAYBE HE'LL LISTEN TO ME!
HULK IS NOT IN CONTROL!
I KNOW THAT!
TONY...I KNOW THAT. YES. I'VE BEEN...ERRATIC, BUT YOU MUST TRUST ME. THERE IS MORE AT PLAY HERE THAN EITHER OF US KNOW. WE HAVE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I FEAR WE MAY HAVE TO TAKE BANNER DOWN FOR GOOD THIS--
FOR BURI'S SAKE, SON! BEHIND YOU!

BANNER!!!...
OH, I DON'T KNOW...
...SEEMS LIKE GOOD OL' HULK TO ME.
NO!!!

B-O-O-OM
BOOM
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
"HE DOESN'T KNOW!
"HE DOESN'T KNOW HE'S NOT IN A SIMULATION ANYMORE! HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE BOTH REAL! THAT HE CAN KILL YOU!!!
"HE'S NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK!"
RNGGHGH...
ROUND TWO, BIG GUY.

LET'S GO!!!
WHAT ARE YOU--
YOU DON'T LISTEN, BOY! HE NEEDS OUR HELP!
WHO?! WHAT ARE YOU--
DAMN YOU! LET ME--
FATHER!
--GO!!!
RAGGHHH!!!
RAGHHHH! BANNER!!!
THOR?! LITTLE HELP?!
BOOM
HULK...
FATHER, NO!!!
...WORTHY?

BOOOOM
CALM DOWN, FRIEND. EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT...
I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU.
RNGHH!
I'M HERE TO SEE DOCTOR BANNER.
BANNER!!!

RAGHHH!!!
FWASSHH
WHOA!
BOOOOM
--THE HELL WAS THAT?? HULK CAN SHOOT EYE LASERS NOW?! THOR, WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?
MJOLNIR HAS HIM PINNED. BUT HE IS...UNRELENTING... UNLEASHED.
HIS RAGE... IT BURNS THE VERY GROUND BELOW HIM. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THIS BEFORE...
LET!
WHOA. I'M GETTING SOME READINGS HERE. THAT'S NOT RAGE BURNING THE GROUND OUT THERE.
THAT'S GAMMA. A WHOLE HELL OF A LOT OF IT. LIKE... "MELT AN ENTIRE CITY SKYLINE" LEVELS.
THOR, YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THERE! NOW!!!
FATHER!!! TO ME!! WE MUST--
NAY!! I CAN REACH HIM!
HULK!!
I CAN--
FREE!!!

GAH!
WHA--?
OH...OH GOD...

DID...
...DID WE KNOW HE COULD DO THAT?
THOR? YOU THERE?
B.O.S.S., TALK TO ME... TELL ME I'M NOT TRAPPED ALONE WITHOUT A BATTLE BOT ON A DYING PLANET WITH A SUPER HULK...
THE CELESTIAL TECH SHIELDED YOU FROM THE GAMMA IRRADIATION RESULTING FROM THE GAMMA BOMB.
THAT WASN'T A GAMMA BOMB!
TO BE PRECISE...IT WAS APPROXIMATELY THE FORCE OF THREE THOUSAND GAMMA BOMBS, SIR.
OH. GOODIE. UM... HYPOTHETICAL...
...IF SOMEONE...SAY, HUMAN... WAS CAUGHT IN THAT BLAST... LIKE BANNER WAS. WOULD THAT--?
CREATE A HULK? NO, SIR. IT WOULD ATOMIZE THEM.
GREAT... AND, UM...JUST FOR GIGGLES...
...WHAT IF THEY WEREN'T HUMAN?

"WHAT IF THEY WERE A GOD?"
THOR...
...SMASH!!!

HULK #7 & ***THOR #25*** CONNECTING VARIANTS BY **CHRISSIE ZULLO**

THOR #25 VARIANT BY
RON LIM & **ISRAEL SILVA**

THOR #26

AND THEN...THERE WAS NOTHING.
NOTHING LEFT...
...BUT RAGE.
THOR...

RAGE IN THE THUNDER.
SMASH!!!
RAGHH!!!
BWAAHH
AGHH!!!
VKSHH
BOOM
THOR!!!
STOP! THIS ISN'T YOU!!! PLEASE... DON'T MAKE ME--
RAGHHH!!!

KRAK
BOOM
BOOOM
HMMPF...
...
...BRUCE?
...
NO.
NO BRUCE.

YOU...
...RUN.
RAGHHH!!!
BOOOOM
AGHHHH!!!

KRAKKKAA-DOOOOOOM

AGH!!!
DEAR...DEAR GOD, WHAT IS HAPPENING OUT THERE?
THOR.
HE'S KILLING YOU, BANNER.
YOU TURNED HIM INTO A MONSTER. LIKE YOU.
LIKE... WHATEVER THE HEL YOU ARE...
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET UP AND STOP BEING SO DAMNED WEAK AND HELP ME BEAT SOME SENSE BACK INTO HIM.
YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT I AM.
WHAT DO YOU NEED?
I HAVE TO GET BACK INTO MY CONTROL CENTER--HULK HAS TAKEN OVER AS THE PRIME PERSONALITY DRIVING THE SHIP.
I HAVE TO TAKE IT BACK.
AYE. IF YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU JUST SAID, THAT IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME. WHAT CAN I DO?
WELL, ODIN...I HAVE A BIG FAVOR TO ASK...

RAGHH!!!
IRON MAN TO AVENGERS HQ, THOR IS COMPROMISED! I NEED IMMEDIATE EVAC OR-- OR BACKUP OR... SOMETHING!!!
HELLO? HEY!!! IS ANYONE--?
STOP!
PUNCHING!
FWAP
KRAK
HULK!!!
AGH!!!

COME ON!!! CAN ANYONE HEAR--
ANTHONY STARK...
WE CAN HEAR YOU.
BOOOM
OH...RIGHT... THE TALKING BIRDS.
NOW EVERYTHING MAKES--
VWAAAMM
--SENSE-- WHOAAA, HEY!!!
CRASH

HAGH! WHERE...? OKAY...
LITTLE WARNING NEXT TIME WOULD BE GREAT!
MY APOLOGIES. I THOUGHT THAT HUGINN AND MUNINN WERE QUITE CLEAR.
WAIT, SIF, THAT WAS YOU? I THOUGHT ONLY--
THOR IS NOT THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF SPEAKING THROUGH THE RAVENS. NOW FIND SHELTER.
I AM BRINGING MY KING HOME.
HOLD UP, YOU'RE BRINGING THOR HERE? I DON'T KNOW IF YOU SAW WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT HE'S NOT QUITE HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.
I SEE EVERYTHING. YES, THOR IS LOST. OUT OF CONTROL.
BUT IF HE MUST BE STOPPED...
...IT WILL BE BY THE SWORD OF ASGARD.

NO... THOR...
...THOR WILL NOT... FALL--
VWAAAAMM
HRRR!!! NO!!!
AGH!!! THIS...THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE BIFROST... HE'S...
"...HE'S FIGHTING IT!"
LIGHT!!! LIGHT...NO... TAKE...THOR!!!
AGHHH!!!

LEAVE!
THOR!
KRAKKA-DOOOOM
ALONE!!!

THOR...
...I...I HAVE FAILED YOU...
WAAAA-DOOOM
DOWN!!!

ARE YOU--?
NO...
NO, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE...
HE...
...HE BROKE IT.
THE BIFROST IS NO MORE.

GODS...
HE'S...
...HE'S GONE.
NOT NECESSARILY.
I THINK I CAN STOP HIM.
I JUST NEED--
ABSOLUTELY NOT! I AM NOT AIDING YOU IN YOUR QUEST TO LOSE EVEN MORE OF THAT MIND OF YOURS. WE MUST TRY TO SUBDUE HIM WITH--
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. THAT IS NOT THOR.
THIS...THIS NEW THING I HAVE INSIDE OF ME, TITAN... IT POSSESSES PEOPLE. TURNS THEM INTO KILLING MACHINES. HE'S BASICALLY A WALKING, TALKING VERSION OF WHAT MADE ME WHAT I AM NOW...
AND IF I TRY TO GO TOE TO TOE WITH THOR OUT THERE...TITAN IS GOING TO COME BACK OUT. AND THEN...THIS ALL ENDS... EVERYTHING.
SO...
...ABOUT THAT FAVOR...

HA! RAINBOW SCARED OF THOR!
RAINBOW RUN AWAY BACK TO--
RMMBBLLL
UGH?
RMMBBBLLL
RMMMMBBBBLLL
HAMMER! TO--

AGH!!!
KER-SMACK
HAMMER HURT THOR!!!
YOU'D BETTER BE DAMN SURE OF THIS.
WELL...
BOOM
...THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY...
FWAP
...TO FIND OUT!
SMASHA-THOOM

YOU...
...YOU STEAL THOR'S HAMMER!
AYE.
YOU WANT IT BACK?
BAAAGHHHHH!!!
COME AND TAKE IT.
AGHHHHH!!!
RAGHHH!!!

KRAKA-DOOOOOOM

HULK #7 VARIANT BY
LOGAN LUBERA & **RACHELLE ROSENBERG**

THOR #26 VARIANT BY **TAURIN CLARKE**

HULK #8 VARIANT BY **TAURIN CLARKE**

HULK #8

THE QUESTION.
THE QUESTION ASKED FOR DECADES PAST AND...SHOULD THE UNIVERSE SURVIVE THIS DAY...
...TO BE DEBATED FOR CENTURIES TO COME.
I...AM UATU. SWORN TO WATCH IN PASSIVE OBSERVATION AS HISTORY'S GREATEST MOMENTS UNRAVEL IN THE FACE OF ETERNITY.
AND HERE, I PRESENT TO YOU...
...THE QUESTION...
...ANSWERED AT LAST...

"WHO...IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH... WOULD WIN?
"THOR, THE GOD OF THUNDER. THE ALL-FATHER...
"OR HULK? THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS. THE WORLD BREAKER.
"TODAY, THAT QUESTION WILL BE ANSWERED...
BANNER! GET US TO ASGARD!
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT LIKE I CAN JUST FLY US THERE! HOW CAN I GET THERE IF THOR JUST BROKE YOUR RAINBOW BRIDGE?
BESIDES, NOT SURE IF YOU NOTICED...
"...HOWEVER, AS WITH ALL THINGS...
...I'M A LITTLE OCCUPIED!
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK I'VE GIVEN MJOLNIR TO YOU SO THAT YOU CAN STRUT ABOUT IN ARMOR AND LIGHTNING, DO YOU?
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BANNER, MY SON OFTEN HOLDS BACK DISPLAYING THE SHEER SCOPE OF MJOLNIR'S POWER.
BUT I... AM NOT MY SON.
"...THE ANSWER WILL COME...
"BEHOLD!!!
"...WITH A PRICE."
"THE BIFROST MAY BE GONE, AYE...
"BUT ASGARD...
"...ASGARD REMAINS."

WAIT, BETA RAY BILL, DO YOU SEE THAT? WHY DOES HULK HAVE--
HOLD!
KRA-KOOOOOM
AGH!
STAND, STARK. FOR IT MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE TO DO SO.
I DON'T GET IT, SIF. HULK...HE HAS MJOLNIR...
EVEN WITHOUT IT, I MEAN...THOR HAS ONLY BARELY BEATEN HIM IN THE PAST. HOW CAN HE--
THAT...
...IS UNTRUE.
THE HULK HAS NEVER FOUGHT THOR.
NOT THE REAL THOR...

BUT DO NOT FORGET...
...THERE WAS A REASON THOR WAS CAST DOWN TO MIDGARD.
TO LEARN HUMILITY. TO LEARN HONOR.
TO LEARN TO WIELD HIS POWER...WITH MERCY.
"IN THE PAST, WHEN THEY HAVE FOUGHT...
"...HULK FACED THE AVENGER. THE HUMBLE AND NOBLE THOR."
"BUT NOW...HULK FACES NOT JUST THE MIRROR OF HIS OWN RAGE...
"...BUT A RAGE THAT HAS BEEN HELD BACK FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
"A POWER... THIS WORLD HAS NEVER SEEN.
"IN THE PAST, WHEN THEY HAVE CLASHED... THOR BELIEVED, TRULY IN HIS HEART, THAT SOMEWHERE INSIDE OF THE HULK..."
...THERE WAS A MAN. AN ALLY. A WARRIOR WORTHY OF FORGIVENESS.
"OF MERCY.
"BUT NOW...IF THOR IS TRULY UNLEASHED... IF HE SEES NO MAN INSIDE OF THAT BEAST...

"...HULK WILL FINALLY LEARN...
"...WHAT IT IS TO FIGHT A GOD."
AGHH!!!
DAMMIT, BOY...
RAGHHHH!!!
"THERE! NOW'S OUR CHANCE!"
PUSH HIM INTO YGGDRASIL.
THE WORLD TREE WILL BURN THIS MADNESS OUT OF HIM.
RAAAAGHHH!!!
THOR SM--
KRAKOOM

DOOOOOM
OKAY...I, UH...I PUSHED HIM INTO THE TREE.
IS THAT... IT? IS IT OVER? OR--?
YOU...YOUR MONSTER. IT IS FUELED BY RAGE. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF.
AND YET HERE YOU ARE--IN CONTROL OF THAT MADNESS. YOU HAVE LEARNED TO CAGE IT. TO LET IT FUEL YOU INSTEAD OF CONTROL YOU...
FOR NOW. YES. BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY--
YOUR BATTLE MAY BE OVER...
"...BUT FOR THOR...RIGHT NOW WE ARE USING THE UNITED POWER OF EVERY REALM IN THE KNOWN AND UNKNOWN UNIVERSE TO CAGE HIS MADNESS...
"ALL OF THE VOICES OF THE ELDERS WHISPERING TO HIM, GUIDING HIM BACK TO THE GOD THAT HE IS...
"ALL OF THE MAGICS AND ENCHANTMENTS KNOWN TO THE RUNES AND FATES TO LEECH THIS FURY FROM HIS SOUL...
"ALL OF THIS..."
...AND I...
...I DON'T THINK IT'S ENOUGH.

AGHHH!!!
HRAAHHH!!!
SNAP
SNAP
RRRRR...
GODS NO...
THOR, PLEASE...
RAAAGHHH!!!

GREAT HEL...
IF HE DOESN'T STOP... WE'RE TALKING THE END OF REALITY. WE'VE GOT TO CALM HIM DOWN.
WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY DO TO END THIS... MADNESS?
IT MIGHT BE TIME FOR LESS FORCE...
"...AND MORE WORDS."
GRAHHHHGGG!
VWAVWAVWA
MY SON!
IT IS I...
...YOUR FATHER...

IT IS ODIN.
GRUH?
I...I AM SORRY, MY SON. NOT ONLY FOR YOUR MANY TROUBLES...BUT FOR WHAT I HAVE DONE AS WELL.
I KNOW I HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN KIND TO YOU. I HAVE MADE MANY MISTAKES.
TOO MANY.
BUT THROUGH IT ALL, DESPITE MY FAILURES, DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCES...I MUST REMIND YOU...
...I STILL LOVE YOU, SON.
HRAH!
IF YOU WOULD, MY BOY... ALLOW ME TO DO WHAT ALL FATHERS ARE CALLED ON TO DO FOR THEIR SONS:
HELP THEM WITH THEIR BURDENS.

AND RELIEVE THEM OF THEIR WOES.

UNH!
"THAT BLAST, IT KNOCKED ME RIGHT OUT. WHAT HAPPENED IN THERE, THOR? WHERE IS HULK?"
"FRIEND STARK, THE MAGIC WITHIN MJOLNIR WAS ABLE TO REMOVE MY GAMMA AND RESTORE THE WORLD TREE.
"BUT THE RESULTING EXPLOSION OF ENERGY WAS TOO MUCH FOR ALL BUT A GOD TO WITHSTAND..."

"SO THAT MEANS--"
"YES.
"BRUCE BANNER...
"...THE HULK...

"...IS DEAD."
"I CAN'T BELIEVE IT..."

...I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S GONE.
I THINK IN SOME WAY, BANNER LET HIMSELF BE DESTROYED. HE WANTED TO BE...
...FREE.
AND I WANT TO BE HOME.
CRACK
AND SO YOU SHALL BE, MY FRIEND.
SAFE TRAVELS, TONY.
AAAAAAH!
SO? WHERE IS HE?
FAR FROM HERE. WHERE HE IS GOING, EVEN I CANNOT SEE.
THOR. SHOULD YOU REALLY HAVE LET HIM GO?
BANNER IS NOT TO BLAME FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN EL PASO. BUT HE KNOWS THE WORLD WOULD FOREVER DOUBT HIS INNOCENCE...
I HAVE LIVED BEHIND BANNER'S EYES, SIF. I HAVE FELT HIS RAGE AND HIS PAIN.

"I SHARE IN THOSE THINGS MORE THAN I WISH.
"SO I MUST RESPECT HIS WILL. AND MAYBE SOMEDAY...HE SHALL FIND HEALING AS WELL. HE DESERVES IT.
"WE ALL DO."

HULK #9

THIS IS SO STUPID.

THIS IS THE PROCESS. *TRUST* THE PROCESS.
THIS IS INANE, SAMSON! I DON'T NEED THIS.
I'M *FINE!*
BRUCE.
YOU TURNED YOUR *ID* INTO A *SPACESHIP* AND LOCKED YOUR ANGER ISSUES AWAY INTO A *BLAST FURNACE* AND ABUSED YOUR FORMER CHILD SELF SO MUCH THAT THE HULK HULKED OUT INTO AN *UNSTOPPABLE KILLING MACHINE* THAT YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS HAS NICKNAMED *"TITAN."*
DOES THAT SOUND "FINE" TO YOU?
IT--*AGH*--SOUNDS PRETTY PAR FOR THE COURSE, ACTUALLY.
NOW LET ME OUT OF HERE!
HMMM...
CLK
NO.

OKAY. LISTEN. I KNOW I INSTALLED THIS PROGRAM, BUT--
AGH!!! HEY! WHAT THE HELL?! THAT ACTUALLY HURT!
WELL, YES. YOU'VE BEEN SHOT.
WHY DON'T WE RETURN TO THE QUESTION?
I ASKED YOU ABOUT YOUR CHILDHOOD.
WHAT THE @#$%?!?!
ONE GOOD THING.
THAT'S IT. THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOING TODAY.
FINDING THE SUNSHINE IN THE STORM CLOUDS.
OH @#$% YOU--

FOCUS!!! FOCUS, BRUCE! YOU CAN DO THIS!
OKAY! OKAY!
ONE GOOD THING.
I...I...
JUST ONE!!!
LOGAN.
... LOGAN?
"NO. NO, NOT THAT ONE. NOT WOLVERINE.
"WHEN I WAS A KID...
"...I...I HAD A FRIEND.
"LOGAN JAMES GIDLEY. I REMEMBER THAT.
"WE CALLED HIM 'LJ.'
BRUCE, LOOK! LOOK!

"HE LOVED SCIENCE AND COMIC BOOKS, AND HE WAS FUNNY, AND... I DON'T KNOW...
112
BANNER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS IS YOUR STOP, AIN'T IT? YOU DON'T WANNA GO HOME OR WHAT?!
I...
BRUCE IS STAYING WITH ME AND MY FOLKS THIS WEEKEND! MY MOM SAID SO.
YEAH...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. I REMEMBER NOW...
ALL RIGHT, SIT BACK DOWN NOW.

"...HE SAVED MY LIFE. HE GAVE ME SOMETHING I NEVER HAD.
"AND...I DON'T KNOW IF HE EVER KNEW THAT.
COME ON, CHECK THIS OUT-- I HAVE THE WHOLE COLLECTION AT MY HOUSE!
"HE GAVE ME A HOME. SOMEWHERE I FELT SAFE. SOMETHING I DON'T KNOW THAT I'VE EVER FELT SINCE...
"MY HOUSE... MY HOUSE WAS JUST A WAITING ROOM. A HURTING PLACE. RED AND...LOUD.
"EVERY QUIET MOMENT WAS JUST A PRELUDE TO SOMETHING I COULD NEVER WASH CLEAN...
"SOMETHING..."
GOOD THINGS, BRUCE.
GOOD THINGS...
JUST BREATHE.
LOGAN'S HOUSE...IT WAS NICE.
WARM. HIS PARENTS WERE... KIND.
THEY WOULD LET ME GO THERE AS MUCH AS I WANTED. WE WOULD READ COMICS AND PLAY VIDEO GAMES AND-- AND HE WOULD PRETEND NOT TO NOTICE MY BRUISES.
HE DIDN'T PITY ME. HE WASN'T AFRAID OF ME.
I...I NEEDED THAT.
BUT THEN...
...HE WOULD COME FOR ME.

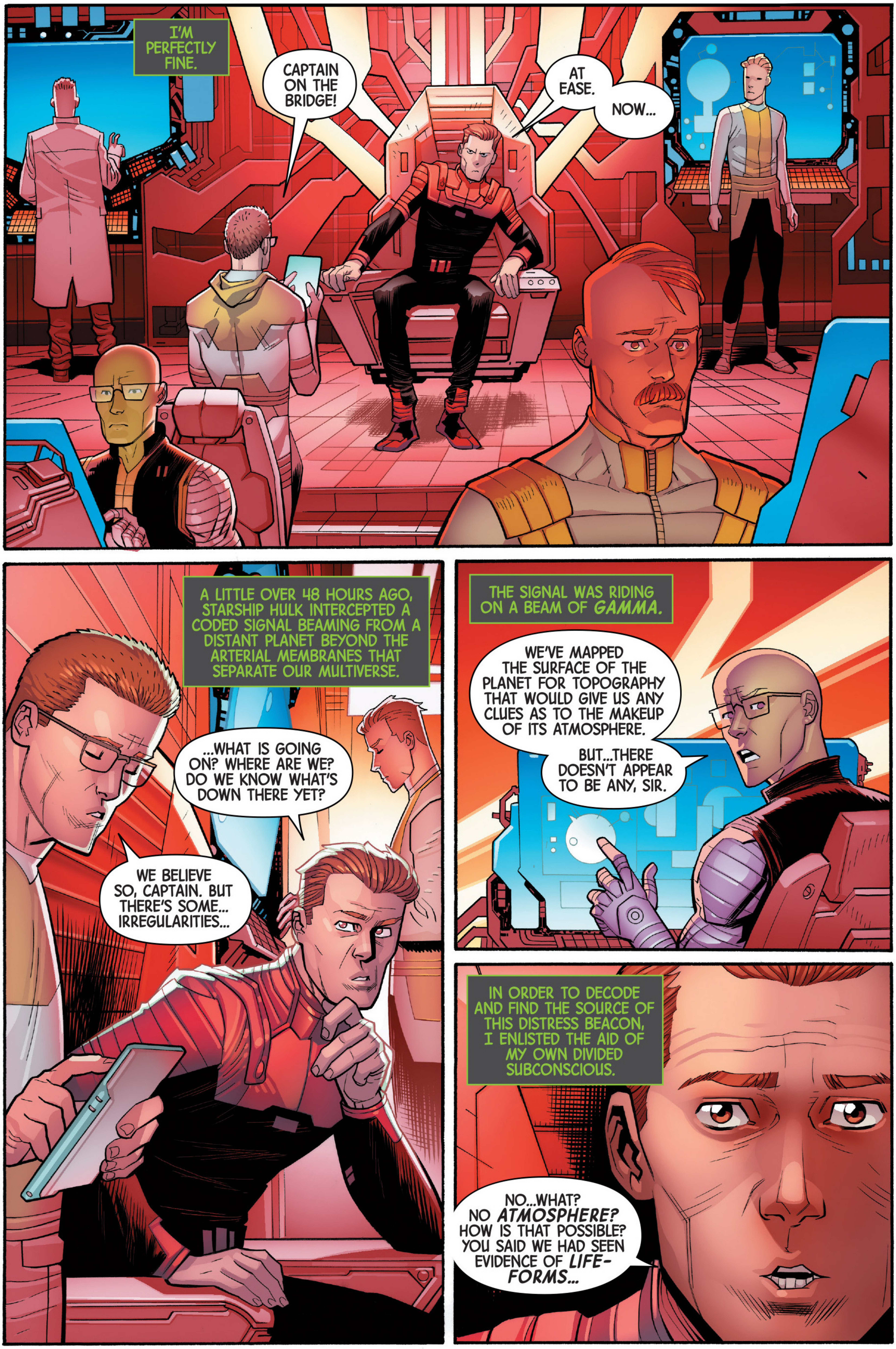
"HE WOULD ALWAYS COME."
DOOOOOM
HE'S NOT HERE NOW, BRUCE.
HE CAN'T HURT YOU.
"I...
"...I JUST DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE..."
DOOM

AGH!!!
WELL, THAT LOOKS LIKE IT'S OUR TIME.
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
I THINK YOU'RE OVERPRICED, LEONARD.
WHAT THE HELL WAS ANY OF THAT SUPPOSED TO PROVE?

YOU TELL ME, BRUCE.
YOU PROGRAMMED IT. THE "SAMSON PROTOCOL," YES?
YOU ARE, IN EFFECT, LOCKED OUT OF YOUR OWN "STARSHIP HULK" CONTROL DECK UNLESS YOU COMPLETE AT LEAST TWO HOURS OF DAILY THERAPY SESSIONS WITH ME.
AT THE END OF WHICH I WILL DETERMINE IF YOU ARE OF A SOUND-ENOUGH MIND TO CONTINUE ON THIS...JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY...
I'M VERY PROUD OF YOU. IT'S VERY INSIGHTFUL, GIVEN YOUR RECENT... EVOLUTIONS.
THE WORK WE'RE ABLE TO DO IN THIS MINDSCAPE OF YOURS IS INCREDIBLE. I THINK IF WE CAN DELVE FURTHER--
I THOUGHT YOU SAID THAT WAS OUR TIME, SAMSON. AM I CLEAR FOR LAUNCH OR NOT?
WHATEVER BECAME OF LOGAN? YOUR FRIEND?
I DON'T KNOW.
I GREW UP. BECAME A MONSTER. KINDA LOST TOUCH, YOU KNOW?
THAT'S WHY IT'S A HAPPY MEMORY, LEONARD.

HE'S THE ONLY PERSON I NEVER HURT.
SAME TIME TOMORROW.
CLEAR FOR LAUNCH, CAPTAIN.

"CLEAR FOR LAUNCH, CAPTAIN." SO INSULTING...JUST THE WAY HE SAYS IT...
I CAN HEAR THE DISDAIN IN HIS VOICE. HE OBVIOUSLY THINKS I'VE *LOST IT.*
NOT EVEN SURE WHY I HAVE HIM AROUND...
AGH, SORRY, CAPTAIN BANNER!
IT'S OKAY. JUST WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, ENSIGN BANNER.
SIR, YES SIR.
THERAPY...
TH-THERE'S A REPORT FOR YOU ON THE BRIDGE, CAPTAIN. WE'VE BEGUN DESCENT.
VERY WELL. AS YOU WERE.
...WHAT A JOKE.



I'M PERFECTLY FINE.
CAPTAIN ON THE BRIDGE!
AT EASE.
NOW...
A LITTLE OVER 48 HOURS AGO, STARSHIP HULK INTERCEPTED A CODED SIGNAL BEAMING FROM A DISTANT PLANET BEYOND THE ARTERIAL MEMBRANES THAT SEPARATE OUR MULTIVERSE.
...WHAT IS GOING ON? WHERE ARE WE? DO WE KNOW WHAT'S DOWN THERE YET?
WE BELIEVE SO, CAPTAIN. BUT THERE'S SOME... IRREGULARITIES...
THE SIGNAL WAS RIDING ON A BEAM OF *GAMMA.*
WE'VE MAPPED THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET FOR TOPOGRAPHY THAT WOULD GIVE US ANY CLUES AS TO THE MAKEUP OF ITS ATMOSPHERE.
BUT...THERE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE ANY, SIR.
IN ORDER TO DECODE AND FIND THE SOURCE OF THIS DISTRESS BEACON, I ENLISTED THE AID OF MY OWN DIVIDED SUBCONSCIOUS.
NO...WHAT? NO *ATMOSPHERE?* HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE? YOU SAID WE HAD SEEN EVIDENCE OF *LIFE-FORMS...*

BY SPLITTING MY OWN CONSCIOUSNESS INTO A CREW OF MULTIPLE-PERSONALITY MENTAL CONSTRUCTS, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO OPERATE THE SHIP AT ITS MAXIMUM POTENTIAL.
NO *TOPOGRAPHY*, CAPTAIN. THE ENTIRE PLANET IS...SMOOTH. QUITE LITERALLY LIKE A MARBLE.
AND JUDGING FROM OUR SCANS OF THE PLANET'S RINGS, WHATEVER MOUNTAINS OR RIDGES THIS PLANET ONCE HAD HAVE BEEN DESTROYED... *PULVERIZED*...
...AND DESTROYED IN SUCH A VIOLENT WAY THAT THE RESULTING DEBRIS WAS ROCKETED INTO THE PLANET'S OWN ORBIT. WE BELIEVE IT RAINS MOLTEN SEDIMENT ALMOST EVERY NIGHT...
GOD. THAT KIND OF POWER... IT'S...
INCALCULABLE, SIR.
SO WHATEVER'S DOWN THERE...IT'S STRONG. AND TOUGH...
AND IF I'M BEING HONEST...
AND WHAT ABOUT THESE? THESE... SPIRES.
THEY APPEAR TO BE CENTERS OF COMMERCE AND LEISURE.
...THEY'RE...
CASINOS, SIR. BUILT BY HAND. THIS ONE HAS A POOL THAT CAN BE SEEN FROM ORBIT.
...IT'S JUST NICE TO NOT BE *ALONE*.
IT BEGS THE QUESTION, DOESN'T IT, SIR?
A PLANET DRENCHED IN GAMMA. WITH A POPULATION THAT HAS THE *STRENGTH* AND THE *INTELLIGENCE* TO BUILD SUCH BENIGN WONDERS...
YES... WHAT'S THE QUESTION?
WELL...

"...WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, CAPTAIN?"
NEED TO MAKE SURE HE'S PLENTY STRONG...
CLK
"...TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER'S DOWN THERE..."
KA-THOOM

MULTIPLE LIFE-FORMS APPROACHING.
ARE THEY HOSTILE?
UNKNOWN.
I HEAR THEM. WHY CAN'T WE SEE THEM YET?
SKITTER
SKITTER
UNABLE TO DETERMINE LOCATIONS.
WELL, PREPARE TO FIRE--
TWEEEEE
WAIT...
...WHAT'S THAT?

IS THAT... ME?
RRAHHH!!!
HUH?
ALERT! ALERT!!!

LOCATION OF LIFE-FORMS DETERMINED!

BOOM
BRUCE BANNER...
DO NOT BE AFRAID.
MY NAME...IS *MONOLITH.*

WELCOME HOME.

HULK #10

I WAS 5 YEARS OLD WHEN MY FATHER MURDERED MY MOTHER.
AND THAT DAY, SITTING IN THE POLICE STATION, ALONE...
...WAITING FOR MY AUNT TO COME AND GET ME WHILE EVERYONE DID THEIR BEST TO IGNORE THE KID COVERED IN BLOOD THAT WASN'T HIS...
...THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I REMEMBER FEELING WEAK.
I HAD BEEN TOLD THAT I WAS WEAK ALL MY LIFE.
BY MY FATHER. BY OTHER KIDS AT SCHOOL.
HEY, KID. I...I GOT YOU SOME HOT CHOCOLATE. IT'S... NOT GREAT, BUT...
KID?
BUT...NOT BY HER.
NO...
I...I CAN'T FIND IT...

...MY MOTHER TOLD ME I WAS THE STRONGEST THING IN THE GALAXY.
YOU ARE *NOT* WEAK!
BUT--BUT I COULDN'T STOP HIM. HE WAS PUSHING THE OTHER KID AND I COULDN'T GET HIM TO *STOP*, AND THEN HE HIT ME AND I--
BRUCE...I'VE TOLD YOU. WE DON'T USE THAT WORD.
AND YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ANYONE WHO TELLS YOU THAT.
WHAT ABOUT--?
NO ONE. NO ONE GETS TO CALL YOU WEAK.
YOU...
OH, BABY...
HERE, GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
OKAY. LISTEN, I KNOW I'M JUST YOUR MOM, AND I DON'T KNOW NEARLY AS MUCH ABOUT SCIENCE AS YOU AND YOUR DAD, BUT...
WHAT'S THE MOST *POWERFUL* THING IN THE WHOLE WIDE UNIVERSE? THE ONE THING NO ONE CAN GO ANYWHERE NEAR BECAUSE IT'S SO STRONG? NOT EVEN THE ASTRONAUTS?
THE SUN?
YES!
AND THE SUN IS SO POWERFUL THAT ITS LIGHT GIVES US ALL OF THE PLANTS AND THE TREES AND GIVES US WARMTH SO WE CAN GROW. AND IT COMES FROM MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF MILES AWAY!
NINETY-THREE MILLION MILES.
SEE! THAT'S *SO* STRONG!
BUT... LOOK...

THAT'S YOUR SHADOW.
YOU MADE THAT. DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
IT MEANS THAT THE MOST POWERFUL THING IN THE UNIVERSE, THE STRONGEST THING EVER IN THE GALAXY...BURNED THROUGH NINETY-THREE MILLION MILES TO GET TO THAT SIDEWALK...
...ONLY TO BE STOPPED BY YOU.
WHENEVER I WAS AFRAID AFTER THAT...WHEN THE OTHER KIDS WERE MEAN, OR MY DAD WAS...CRUEL...
...I KNEW I WAS OKAY.
THAT I WAS STRONG...
...BECAUSE I WOULD ALWAYS HAVE MY SHADOW.
WHERE... WHERE IS IT?
HEY... KID...
LISTEN TO ME...
NO ONE IS GOING TO HURT YOU HERE.
AND MY SHADOW COULDN'T BE STOPPED.

NOW:
BUT THEN... IT WENT AWAY.
IN THE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS OF THAT POLICE STATION, I COULDN'T FIND IT. I COULDN'T FIND MY SHADOW.
SO I CLOSED MY EYES. AND I HEARD SOMEONE SAY THAT NO ONE COULD HURT ME.
AND I KNEW IT WAS A LIE.
THAT THE HURT WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE THERE.
BECAUSE I DID FIND IT. I FOUND MY SHADOW AGAIN.
BUT...WHEN I DID, IT WASN'T MY SHADOW. NOT ANYMORE....
IT WAS HIM.
HE HAD BROKEN THE SUN.
KRNCH
AND I WOULD ALWAYS BE IN HIS SHADOW.

HULK?
IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
YES. SORRY.
IT'S... SAMSON. THERAPY. I HAVE TO...
YOU KNOW... I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW HOW TO EXPLAIN THIS NOW THAT I'VE STARTED TALKING...
YOU DON'T NEED TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING.
I KNOW THIS MUST BE QUITE...A LOT FOR YOU TO TAKE IN. YOU HAVE NO REASON TO TRUST ANY OF US AFTER...WELL, AFTER YOUR ARRIVAL...
YES. I'M SORRY, YOUR... HIGHNESS. I HOPE I DIDN'T INJURE TOO MANY OF YOUR MEN. PUNCHING FIRST AND TALKING LATER IS AN... OLD CUSTOM ON MY PLANET.
OH, THE GREYS? THEY ARE FAR FROM MY "MEN"--THEY ARE MORE HUMAN THAN THEY ARE US. DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
I DON'T--
AND YOU MAY JUST CALL ME MONOLITH. THERE'S NO NEED FOR THE FORMALITIES. I INVITED YOU HERE. YOU ARE MY GUEST.
ABOUT THAT...
YES. I'M SURE YOU HAVE MANY QUESTIONS... I'M AN OPEN BOOK, HULK. WHAT'S MINE IS YOURS...
OKAY... WELL, TO START...
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL OF THIS?
YES...

"LONG AGO, THIS PLANET WAS EMPTY.
"INHOSPITABLE AND HOSTILE. DEVOID OF LIFE.
"BUT THEN...
"...THERE WAS LIGHT!
"AND PRIMITIVE AS WE WERE IN THOSE DAYS...WE KNEW...
"...WE WERE ABOMINATIONS.
"WE WERE UNWANTED.
"OUR KIND...
"YOUR KIND...
"WE WERE THROWN AWAY FROM THE WORLD WHERE WE WERE CREATED.
"LIKE BROKEN ANGELS, WE FELL TO THIS WORLD...
"CAST DOWN BY OUR CREATORS...
"IMPERFECT.
"PRIMITIVE.
"SAVAGE.
RAGHH!!!...

"AND OH...
"...OH, HOW WE RAGED.
"WE BROKE THE MOUNTAINS.
"WE TORE THE HILLS AND THE GREAT STONE SKELETONS OF ANCIENT MOLTEN CORE TO ASH WITH OUR HANDS.
"IN OUR RAGING BEGINNINGS, WE RIPPED THE VERY PLANET NEARLY IN HALF WITH OUR HANDS.
"THE HEAT OF THE PLANET GREW AS GENERATIONS OF FIRE AND BLOOD WERE SPILLED INTO ITS CENTER. AS THE GROUND DRANK OUR POISONED DEAD.
"THE NEW ATMOSPHERE, BORN OF MOUNTAINS BLASTED INTO ASH, MADE THE RING OF SAND AND DEBRIS THAT YOU SEE IN THE SKY ABOVE US.
"THAT RING...MADE OF RAGE... COOLED AND SHIELDED US FROM OUR SUN.
"AND BENEATH IT...

"...WE BEGAN TO GROW.
"THE PULSING, CONSTANT PRESSURE OF OUR FISTS SLOWLY CHANGED AND ALTERED OUR ORBIT.
"THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH AND REBIRTH SOAKED THE GROUND BELOW US IN GAMMA RADIATION.
"WHAT WAS BLOOD BECAME SOIL...
"...WHICH BECAME FOOD...
"...WHICH THEN ROSE INTO THE SKY ON OUR SCREAMS AND TERRAFORMED AN ENTIRE PLANET MADE JUST...FOR US.
"A HEAVEN FOR BROKEN ANGELS.
"BUILT FROM RAGE.
"SO THAT WE MAY KNOW PEACE...
"...BENEATH A GAMMA STAR.
"BUT THEN...

"...THE SUN EXPLODED.
"BUT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THAT LIGHT...
"A VOICE... A NAME...
"SOMETHING...
"SOMEONE...
"YOU.
RAGHHHH!!!
"YOU CHANGED US.
RAGHHH!!!

"YOU SAVED US.
"YOU SENT US GAMMA.
"A HURRICANE OF GAMMA RAIN SOAKED IN INFORMATION AND SCIENCE AND EVOLUTION.
"WITH THE TOOLS TO BECOME WHAT WE WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO BE.
"TO BE LIKE YOU."

TO BE LIKE HULK.
THAT...
UGH
ONE MOMENT.
KOOOM

SORRY. THIS IS...A LOT TO TAKE IN. AND THAT...
MAN, THAT WAS HEAVY. SO--
...
"HE-AVY"?
YEAH...UM, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO LIFT? HEAVY?
I'M SORRY, HULK...I DON'T UNDER--
HA. WOW. YEAH, OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T.
FORGET ABOUT IT. AND HEY...
BRUCE.
YOU CAN CALL ME BRUCE. BRUCE BANNER. IT'S MY... WELL, MY REAL NAME.

COME...
..."BRUCE."
DO YOU--?
DID YOU HEAR? BRUCE? WHAT KIND OF--?
HUSH!
HE MUSTN'T KNOW.
NO ONE MUST KNOW.

--THERE WAS A VERSION OF ME. A DIFFERENT VERSION. A MAN. A MAN WHO NEVER--
"MAN"?
YES. HE... HE NEVER BECAME WHAT WE ARE.
AH. A GREY THEN. OR, HOW YOU WOULD SAY...
...A PUNY.
HEH...I SUPPOSE SO. BUT NO...NO, HE WANTED TO SAVE YOU ALL. ON HIS PLANET, THEY...WELL, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO CHANGED YOU INTO WHAT YOU ARE, WHO--
--MADE US STRONG! PERFECT.
WELL, YES. IF YOU WANT.
BUT THEN... GOD...IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE...
THAT EXPLOSION YOU SAW IN THE SKY...
THE PEOPLE OF THAT PLANET, THEY TRIED TO KILL HIM, AND ME. THEY DROPPED A BOMB ON US, AND I--I OPENED A PORTAL TO THIS PLACE TO ABSORB THE BLAST,* AND THE RADIATION...
...IT...IT MUST HAVE ADVANCED YOUR MUTATIONS AND...CARRIED THAT OTHER BANNER'S COMPUTATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC DATA. FASCINATING. AND...TIME. TIME MUST MOVE DIFFERENT HERE DUE TO YOUR ORBIT. TO ME, THE BLAST WAS WEEKS AGO...
THE BOMB WENT OFF, AND THEN--
*BACK IN #6. --WIL
YES! AND THEN YOU CAME TO US, BUT HAMMER SATAN TRIED TO STOP YOU--
--AND SO YOU TORE HIM IN HALF AND MADE THE RIVERS WITH HIS BLOOD.
WE COULD HEAR HIS CRIES IN THUNDER EVEN HERE.
...
...YES. YES, I DID. I KILLED HAMMER SATAN.

BUT...LISTEN. I DIDN'T KNOW.
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T KNOW THE BLAST WOULD COME HERE. THAT...THAT YOU-- YOU ALL WERE HERE. LET ME TRY TO HELP. I CAN--
HELP?
HULK...
...HEAVEN DOES NOT NEED HELP.
HULK
YOU ARE *HOME* NOW.

HULK. SIR. UH-- SIRE...
I AM CALLED PAVE. IT IS MY GREATEST HONOR TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR HOME.
I...THAT IS, WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU WOULD--
PAVE, OUR GUEST IS NOT TO BE BOTHERED BY--
NO, NO... IT'S NO BOTHER. WHAT IS IT, SON?
OUR ANNUAL GOD BALL SEASON BEGINS TODAY.
IT WOULD BE THE GREATEST GIFT TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT I PLAYED AGAINST THE STRONGEST ONE THERE EVER WAS...
GOD BALL?
A COMING-OF-AGE SPORT ON OUR WORLD. A HOLDOVER FROM THE OLD DAYS. A WAY OF CELEBRATING OUR HORRID AND VIOLENT PAST AND THE WAYS IN WHICH WE SURVIVED AND EVOLVED FROM THEM.
INCREDIBLY VIOLENT. BRUTAL REALLY.
OH. WELL... THEN I REALLY SHOULDN'T. I DON'T WANT TO HURT--
HULK. IT'S SAFE.
YOU CAN'T HURT ANYONE HERE.

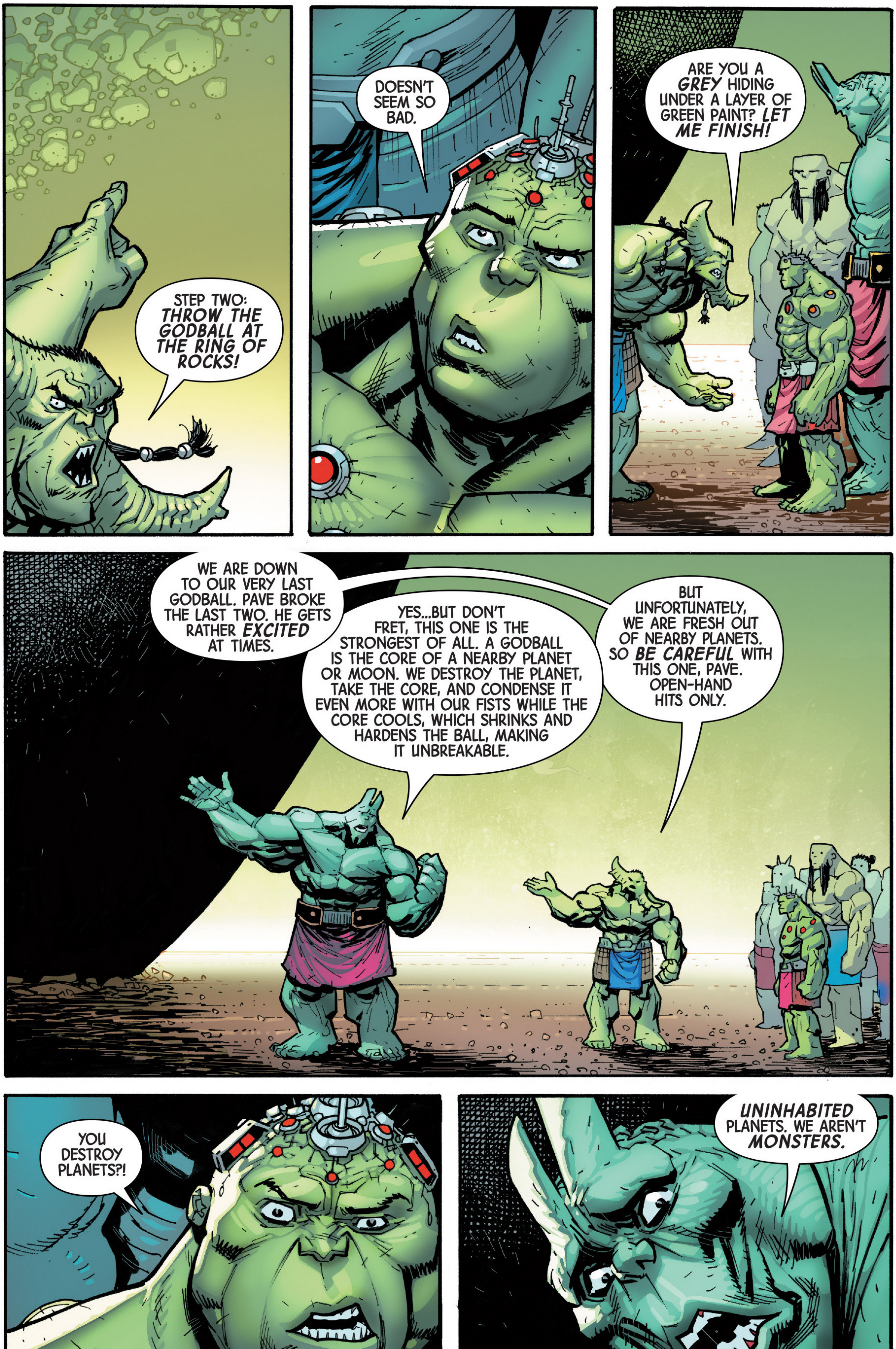
HEH... HOW ABOUT THAT...?
MADAM...I DON'T...I DON'T MEANT TO INTERRUPT THE CELEBRATION, B-BUT--
OUT WITH IT.
THE SCANS...
THEY--THEY SHOW--
YES. I KNOW. I SAW IT.
WHAT-- WHAT DO WE DO?
THERE'S NOTHING WE *CAN* DO.
"BRUCE BANNER" IS GOING TO DIE...

HULK #11

WE WELCOME HULK, OUR NEWEST MEMBER, TO THE OFFICIAL GODBALL GAMES. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US.
WE HOPE TO WITNESS YOUR STRENGTH FIRSTHAND, AS IT'S SOMETHING WE'VE BEEN TOLD IS UNSTOPPABLE AND QUITE THE FORCE TO BEHOLD!
BUT...YOU LOOK JUST LIKE MY 3-DAY-OLD NEPHEW NEXT TO US, SO I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THE STORIES TOLD WERE A BUNCH OF MYTHS AND EXAGGERATIONS AND THAT YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY DIE OUT HERE--
--WHICH WILL FORCE US TO TEAR DOWN YOUR STATUE AND REBUILD ONE OF MY 3-DAY-OLD NEPHEW AS THE NEW MIGHTIEST OF THEM ALL.
BRUTAL, PLEASE! HE'S OUR GUEST! LET'S GIVE HIM A CHANCE BEFORE WE PLACE JUDGMENTS UPON HIM. HE IS MIGHTY--MANY OF US SAW IT IN THE GREAT DOWNLOAD.*
WE SAW HIS PAST. WE SAW THE FOES HE HAS FACED. HULK HAS LIVED A LIFE NONE OF US HAVE LIVED, HE HAS HAD EXPERIENCES NONE OF US HAVE EXPERIENCED. WE WILL LEARN MUCH FROM HIM TODAY.
*LAST ISSUE. --WIL
>SIGH< WHY DID I SAY YES TO THIS? IF I ACCIDENTALLY KILL THEM, I'LL BE BANISHED. IF I GO EASY ON THEM, THEY'LL THINK I'M WEAK AND WALK ALL OVER ME.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO PROVE TO THEM, SIR. YOU WANTED TO FIND A PLACE OF REFUGE--WE MIGHT HAVE FOUND IT. PLAY THE GAME. HAVE FUN. IT'S LIKE MONOLITH SAID--YOU CAN'T HURT ANYONE HERE.
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU'RE ALSO ME, WHICH MEANS I'M RIGHT. I GUESS I'LL--
IS HE EVEN LISTENING?!

THE STRONGEST BEING IN THE UNIVERSE, YET HE STANDS HERE DAYDREAMING ABOUT BERRYSLAW AND STICKWORM JUICE?!
WELL, BRUTAL... I'VE NEVER TASTED BERRYSLAW OR STICKWORM JUICE, BUT TO BE HONEST, I'D LOVE TO TRY. I'D LOVE TO EXPERIENCE MANY THINGS ON YOUR WONDERFUL PLANET, GODBALL BEING ONE OF THEM.
I'M EXCITED TO GET TO KNOW YOU ALL, TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR WORLD AND WAY OF LIVING.
AND I HOPE YOU ALL CAN ACCEPT ME AND MAYBE SOMEDAY SEE ME AS ONE OF YOUR OWN. I WOULD LIKE THAT VERY MUCH.
NOW IF SOMEONE, ANYONE, COULD EVENTUALLY GET TO THE RULES SO WE CAN GET ON WITH IT? BECAUSE I'M READY TO WIN THIS GAME.

THE RULES ARE SO SIMPLE EVEN A GREY COULD UNDERSTAND.
STEP ONE: PICK UP THE GODBALL!
MONOLITH, I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT THE GODBALL FESTIVITIES FOR THIS, BUT...
...WELL, THE RECENT FINDINGS ON HULK'S BRAIN SCAN HAVE ME WORRIED THAT GODBALL MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST THING FOR HIM TO BE DOING RIGHT NOW...
I ACQUIRED MORE DOWNLOADED KNOWLEDGE FROM THE GAMMA ERUPTION THAN ANYONE--I KNOW WHAT HULK CAN HANDLE. THIS WILL BE A GAME OF PEACE. LET'S SIT BACK AND WATCH.
BUT FIRST, DO BRING ME A GOBLET OF STICKWORM JUICE. I THIRST.


STEP TWO: THROW THE GODBALL AT THE RING OF ROCKS!
DOESN'T SEEM SO BAD.
ARE YOU A GREY HIDING UNDER A LAYER OF GREEN PAINT? LET ME FINISH!
WE ARE DOWN TO OUR VERY LAST GODBALL. PAVE BROKE THE LAST TWO. HE GETS RATHER EXCITED AT TIMES.
BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE FRESH OUT OF NEARBY PLANETS. SO BE CAREFUL WITH THIS ONE, PAVE. OPEN-HAND HITS ONLY.
YES...BUT DON'T FRET, THIS ONE IS THE STRONGEST OF ALL. A GODBALL IS THE CORE OF A NEARBY PLANET OR MOON. WE DESTROY THE PLANET, TAKE THE CORE, AND CONDENSE IT EVEN MORE WITH OUR FISTS WHILE THE CORE COOLS, WHICH SHRINKS AND HARDENS THE BALL, MAKING IT UNBREAKABLE.
YOU DESTROY PLANETS?!
UNINHABITED PLANETS. WE AREN'T MONSTERS.

"TEAM RED CIRCLES THE BALL AND IS FIRST UP FOR OFFENSIVE PLAY. TEAM BLUE POSITIONS IN A WIDER CIRCLE AROUND TEAM RED FOR DEFENSIVE PLAY...
"TEAM BLUE ALSO HAS ONE ROCK DEFENDER ON THE BELT. THEY HAVE KUSS UP THERE RIGHT NOW--HE NEEDS SOME ALONE TIME UNTIL HE LEARNS TO STOP DISMEMBERING.
"EACH ROCK HIT COUNTS AS A POINT. WHICHEVER TEAM HAS THE MOST POINTS WHEN THE GREY BEASTS HOWL WINS.
"HULK, YOU TAKE THE LEAD SINCE YOU'RE THE NEWBIE. GOOD LUCK. THE WORLD IS WATCHING!"
WE WON'T BE NEEDING THE MAIN SUIT FOR THIS GAME, BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO GIVE OUR HULK IN THE ENGINE ROOM A MUCH-NEEDED BREAK. THOUGHTS FROM THE BRIDGE?
PRETTY SURE WE CAN HANDLE THIS WITHOUT LEVELING UP THE STAGES AND CAUSING STRESS TO THE ENGINE ROOM.
YES. THAT LAST BOUT OF LEVELING HAS RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT OUR ABILITY TO KEEP OURSELVES MENTALLY STABLE DURING SUCH STRESS TO OUR COGNITIVE FUNCTIONS.
YEAH. THAT GOT OUT OF HAND.
SO WE AGREE--LET'S JUST PLAY SOME BALL AND RELAX!

SMACK
KRAK
GAH!
THOOM
PATHETIC.
THAT WAS A GOOD, SOLID FIRST TRY. MAYBE JUMP UP FASTER AND LAUNCH THE GODBALL SOONER NEXT TIME.
YOU GOT THIS! ONE MORE TRY, THEN IT'S THEIR BALL.
OKAY...MAYBE JUST STAGE ONE?
ONE SHOULD BE FINE.
YEAH, PROBABLY. THIS IS EMBARRASSING.

CLK
STAGE ONE
SHOOOM
SHOOOM

GRAHHHHH!
BOOM
GRAHHHHH!
BOOM

GREAT HIT! NOW'S OUR CHANCE, LET'S GO UP AGAIN. WE WILL DEFEND YOU AS YOU TAKE AIM AND SLAP THEM ROCKS!
THOOM

YAK, GER AND KRAW, YOU GO AFTER PAVE! HAROLD AND I WILL FOCUS ON HULK. GO!
GOT YOU!
NICE TRY, BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME!
THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY, WORLDBREAKER!!!
ME AGAIN. THIS IS TOO EASY.

IT'S A DISGRACE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO YOUR BODY. EMBEDDING TECH DEEP IN YOUR FLESH MAKES YOU WEAK!
ARRRGH!!!...
OH NO. OKAY, THIS COULD BE BAD.
PATIENCE. GULP
HULK! SHAKE HIM LOOSE AND TAKE YOUR SHOT!
YOUR HULK ISN'T THE STRONGEST ONE THERE IS AFTER ALL.
THOOM

SOOOOO, STAGE TWO?
BUT THAT'S IT. JUST STAGE TWO.
YES! YES! STAGE TWO-- LET'S DO THIS!
STAGE TWO
RAAAAAAAHH!
TALK ABOUT AN EASY WIN!
KRAK
MADAM, THERE ARE HIGH-ENERGY READINGS NEARBY. I THINK A PORTAL IS BEING OPENED!
WHAT?! WHO?!

KRAK
GLUK
GODBALL, MEET BASEBALL.
SMACK
THOOM
THOOM
THOOM
WHAT?! THREE POINTS IN ONE HIT?!

OKAY, OKAY, LET'S GET ON WITH IT. IT'S OUR BALL. GET IN FORMATION ALREADY!
HULK IS THE STRONGEST TO EVER LIVE! YEAHHHHHHH!!!!!!
BOOM
KRIK
KRACK
ARE YOU #%$&@$% KIDDING ME? WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU, PAVE?!
I...I'M SORRY. I GOT EXCITED. I'LL GET A NEW ONE.

A PORTAL, IT'S OPENING THERE, RIGHT NEXT TO THE GAME!
GET EVERYONE OUT OF THERE-- NOW!
YOU!!!
YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD KILL THE PROTECTORS OF THE ARTERIAL DIMENSIONAL BETWEEN-SPACE AND GET AWAY WITH IT?!*
IF A TEAM GETS ERADICATED, ANOTHER TEAM IN ANOTHER DIMENSION THEN BECOMES THE NEW PROTECTORS. WE ARE THAT SLAIN TEAM'S DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS WHO HAVE TAKEN UP THEIR MANTLE, AND WE HAVE SWORN TO AVENGE THEM!
*ISSUE #2. --WIL
IT TOOK US A WHILE TO FIND YOU, BUT NOW ALL OF OUR OTHER DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF YOUR WHEREABOUTS IN CASE YOU SOMEHOW DEFEAT US AGAIN!
I...I AM LOST. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
HE IS INNOCENT! TOUCH HIM, YOU DIE!
THERE WAS FOOTAGE RECORDED IN HULK'S HELMET WHILE HE WAS IN THE BETWEEN-SPACE-- SEARCH IT NOW. WE MUST ACT QUICKLY!
LADY DEMONESS, SEND THEM FAR AWAY FROM HERE, WHERE THEY CANNOT HURT ANOTHER LIVING SOUL FOR AS LONG AS THEY LIVE.

FOUND IT!
GOOD! NOW SEND FOOTAGE TO SCREEN 43. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO THIS AS DIPLOMATICALLY AS POSSIBLE...
THUD
WHERE ARE WE?
WELCOME, GUESTS! WE SEE THERE IS A BIT OF A MISUNDERSTANDING HERE. OUR HULK DID IN FACT DECIMATE YOUR FORMER TEAM...BUT...WELL...
...HE WAS SLEEPING.
IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT. AS YOU CAN SEE HERE, NO ILL INTENT WAS INTENDED. I KNOW IT'S AN OFFENSE IMPOSSIBLE TO FORGIVE, BUT I ASK YOU TO SHOW MERCY TO OUR HULK DUE TO THE SITUATION AT HAND.
→SIGH← I SEE. FREAK ACCIDENTS DO HAPPEN FROM TIME TO TIME. WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO HOLD A PEACEFUL EXCHANGE.
LADY DEMONESS, BRING BACK THE--

KUSS, NO!!!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE?!
DID YOU NOT HEAR A WORD THEY SAID?! NOW OTHER TEAM COUNTERPARTS FROM DIFFERENT DIMENSIONS ARE BEING NOTIFIED AS WE SPEAK! THEY'LL COME HERE FASTER AND FASTER UNTIL WE ARE IN AN ALL-OUT WAR!
UH, I WAS IN SPACE.
I'M GETTING ANOTHER READING COMING IN FAST--A NEW PORTAL WILL OPEN ANY SECOND NOW.
#%$&@$%$#, I HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING MYSELF!
&%$@ DIPLOMACY!

THIS PLANET... SO FRAGILE! WHY WOULD THEY SEND US...
...HERE?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT...THIS PLACE LOOKS VERY UNINHABITED.
IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF WE JUST LEFT IT UNSCATHED.
HUH?
SHALL WE?
OH, YOU MEAN... SMASHING?!
YES! YES!
PAVE SMASH!!!
SMASH
SMASH

ATTACK!!!
STOP!
GET HER!
VOOOM
MONOLITH, ANOTHER PORTAL OPENING BEHIND YOU!
ATTACK!!!
JUST STOP!
SHOOOM
ANOTHER PORTAL ABOVE YOU!
ATTA--
VOOOM
I CAN DO THIS FOREVER!
A--
ZOOOM
WAIT!!!

MADAM. WE ARE DONE. WE SURRENDER.
WE RECORD ALL TEAM OPERATIONS AND THEY GET UPLOADED TO A MAIN HUB IN AN UNDISCLOSED DIMENSION, SO THE INFORMATION IS ON A BIT OF A LAG. WE ARE UPDATING OUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO RETRIEVE INFORMATION MUCH MORE QUICKLY. BUT FOR NOW, WE WORK WITH WHAT WE HAVE.
WE SAW YOUR INITIAL EXCHANGE WITH OUR OTHER COUNTERPARTS. THE FOOTAGE SAYS IT ALL--YOU AGREED TO PEACE. ACCIDENTS HAPPENED. SO SORRY FOR THIS MISUNDERSTANDING. WE WILL NOT COME BACK.
NOW PLEASE, IF YOU'LL ALLOW ME TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR MEN--WHO ARE SAFE ON A DISTANT PLANET--WE CAN BRING THEM HOME.
VERY WELL.
A SUGGESTION: PLEASE SEND A MESSAGE TO ALL YOUR OTHER DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS THAT IF THEY SEE A LARGE GREEN MAN FLYING THROUGH YOUR PRECIOUS "ARTERIAL DIMENSIONAL BETWEEN-SPACE"... THEY SHOULD *MOVE.*
YES, MA'AM. NOTED.
WHAT?!
THE PLANET...IT'S GONE!
YES...
...BUT THE *CORE* REMAINS.

LET THE GAME COMMENCE! GAME ON! BLUE TEAM, WE'RE UP! GET IN FORMATION!

HULK #12

I COULD LIVE HERE...
...OR, AT THE VERY LEAST, VACATION HERE. IF THE AVENGERS COULD SEE ME NOW. SMILING. HAPPY. AMONG BEINGS LIKE MYSELF.
OR MAYBE I'M IGNORING MY DEEPER PROBLEMS. DELUSION CAN BE A COMFORTABLE STATE TO BE IN. I THINK I'LL JUST HANG ON TO THE DELUSION FOR A BIT LONGER.
YOU'RE GETTING ALONG QUITE NICELY HERE, HULK. OF COURSE, YOU HAD A HEAD START WITH ALREADY BEING REVERED AS A GOD, BUT NONETHELESS, MY PEOPLE LOVE YOU EVEN MORE NOW.
YOU EVEN BEFRIENDED BRUTAL, WHICH CAN BE QUITE HARD TO DO.
HA! SIMPLE THINGS AMUSE SIMPLE MINDS.

WELL, I'LL REFRAIN FROM LETTING BRUTAL KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF HIS MIND.
UNLESS THAT WAS DIRECTED AT ME AND MY PEOPLE AS WELL?
NO! NO, I'M SORRY. THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT.
REALLY, THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN...PLEASANT. YOU ALL HAVE MADE ME FEEL VERY WELCOME.
HULK, I...
...I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH. I'VE SEEN IT. AND IN A WAY...EXPERIENCED IT. THIS PLACE WON'T EVER BE AGAINST YOU LIKE SO MANY HAVE BEEN, WE WON'T EVER FIGHT YOU. WE UNDERSTAND YOU.
YOU...BELONG HERE...WITH US. NO MORE HIDING. YOU CAN LET THE BRUCE SIDE OF YOU GO--YOU ARE HULK! COME BE YOUR TRUE SELF HERE AND HELP ME RULE. COME BE OUR--
MONOLITH, I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING--
--BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION. BRUCE IS MY TRUE SELF. WHAT I AM IS...COMPLICATED. LISTEN, THERE'S HONESTLY NO POINT IN DISCUSSING IT FURTHER.
SIR, WHAT IS SHE SUGGESTING EXACTLY?
OUR ANNIHILATION, APPARENTLY.
UH, WHY ISN'T ADMIRAL BANNER AT HIS STATION? AND WHERE IS LIEUTENANT BANNER?
WE CAN HELP YOU RID YOURSELF OF THIS BRUCE PERSONA, WE CAN--
SERIOUSLY... I AM DONE WITH THIS CONVERSATION. MAYBE STICK WITH SIMPLE THINGS THAT YOUR SIMPLE MIND CAN UNDERSTAND.

I'LL BE BACK IN AN HOUR. FIND THE ADMIRAL AND LIEUTENANT. NOW.
YES, SIR.
HELLO, BRUCE, HOW GOES IT?
LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, SAMSON. I LIKE IT HERE, I REALLY DO. BUT I'M NO DUMMY, I REALIZE &%$# COULD HIT THE FAN AT ANY MOMENT.
THAT...THING IS STILL THERE, THAT...TITAN. HE'S WAITING IN A CORNER OF MY MIND SOMEWHERE.
I CAN FEEL IT LOOMING, AS IF IT'S GROWING. WAITING. I CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO RESURFACE AGAIN, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CONTAIN HIM.
I...I ACTUALLY DON'T KNOW HOW THIS ALL WORKS. IF HE COMES BACK...ON THIS PLANET... IT'S ALL OVER.
I SHOULDN'T STAY HERE, EVEN THOUGH THEY WANT ME TO. EVEN THOUGH I WANT TO. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIX THIS.
BRUCE...I'M GOING TO SAY THIS AS GENTLY AS I CAN, JUST KNOW IT'S ONLY TO OPEN US UP FOR A CONVERSATION THAT WE'VE NEEDED TO HAVE FOR A WHILE NOW.
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED THE ALTERNATIVE AT ALL? THE DISMANTLING OF THE MIND PALACE, GOING BACK TO NORMAL?
YOU'RE MINE NOW. YOUR MIND. YOUR BODY. AND SOON ENOUGH, YOUR WORLD.

I MUST TELL HULK ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN IMPLANTED IN HIS HEAD. HE MIGHT KNOW WHO WOULD DO THAT TO HIM.
I CAN'T IMAGINE HE'D ORDER SUCH MODIFICATIONS TO HIMSELF, BUT IN THE END, IT DOESN'T MATTER. WE JUST NEED TO REMOVE EVERY BIT OF TECH THAT WAS IMPLANTED.
I NEED TO SPEAK WITH HIM AGAIN. HE MUST LISTEN.
NO! I FINALLY HAVE WHAT I WANT-- CONTROL OF MY BODY, OF ME, OF EVERYTHING!
ARE YOU IN CONTROL?
AAAAAAAHHHHH!
HERE...IN YOUR LITTLE CAGE... YOU'RE USELESS. BRUCE CONTROLS YOU. BUT I OWN YOU. I MADE YOU.

I OWN EVERY PART OF BRUCE'S MIND, I INFEST EVERY CORNER OF HIS THOUGHTS--I AM COMING.
I WILL BE ALL-CONSUMING.
BRUCE, PAST TRAUMA CAN COME BACK IN WAVES, SOMETIMES YEARS LATER, AND IT CAN BECOME ALL-CONSUMING. IT COULD BE A SIGN THAT YOU'RE READY TO HEAL ON A DEEPER LEVEL.
THIS MIGHT BE THE STRONGEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN. RIGHT NOW. YOU'RE FINALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO BE VULNERABLE. IT'S THE PERFECT TIME TO FACE THIS DEMON.
I HAVE TO GO...I JUST... I CAN'T BE HERE.
BUT PLEASE, SAMSON, WALK WITH ME. I'LL ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE THE THERAPY PROGRAM JUST THIS ONCE. SOMETHING IS HAPPENING AND I MIGHT NEED A HAND.

BRUCE. YOU CAN'T RUN FROM THIS ANYMORE. YOU ARE READY.
THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS IS TO HEAD STRAIGHT THROUGH IT.
DAD?
HEAD TOWARD IT, FOLLOW IT THROUGH.
FIND IT. CONFRONT IT.
OH MY GOD.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHO COULD'VE DONE THIS?!
SAMSON...

...I HAVE TO LEAVE THIS PLANET *NOW.*
THIS FEELS LIKE MORE THAN JUST TRAUMA RESPONSES.
TITAN IS *HERE,* HE'S MESSING WITH ME, HE'S COMING. HE'S TRYING TO GAIN CONTROL AGAIN.
I CAN'T LET HIM. I'M LITERALLY LOSING MY MIND HERE. I CAN'T PUT THIS PLANET, THESE PEOPLE, IN DANGER.
KNOCKKNOCK
HULK, I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU.
MONOLITH, I HONESTLY CAN'T HAVE A CONVERSATION RIGHT NOW!
BRUCE, PLEASE STOP. GET TO A SAFE PLACE, WE'LL MAKE SURE TITAN DOESN'T EMERGE. REMEMBER--THIS IS *YOUR* BRAIN, YOU'RE IN CONTROL.
LISTEN, I KNOW I PROMISED TO NOT ASK YOU ABOUT YOUR MIND PALACE AGAIN, BUT IF THIS GETS TOO FAR...
...I NEED TO KNOW WHO BUILT THIS. MAYBE I CAN GET AHOLD OF WHOEVER HELPED YOU CREATE IT, MAYBE THEY CAN HELP.
AND WITH *THAT,* I'M DONE. I CAN HANDLE THIS WITHOUT YOU FOR NOW. GOODBYE, SAMSON, I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN IF I NEED YOUR HELP. *END PROGRAM.*
BRUCE, WAIT...!
PLEASE, HULK...BRUCE... PLEASE...LET ME HELP YOU.
EVERYONE'S VERSION OF HELP IS WAY TOO INTRUSIVE FOR ME. JUST LEAVE. I'M GOING TO HANDLE THIS ALONE.

NO, YOU ARE NOT.
HULK, WHERE ARE YOU GOING? YOU CANNOT LEAVE! YOU'RE IN DANGER!
I'VE *GOTTA* LEAVE, I HAVE...
...SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME... I DON'T WANT IT TO HURT ANYONE.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU AT FIRST--I THOUGHT I HAD IT UNDER CONTROL.
BUT SOMETHING IS HAPPENING IN MY MIND, AND I FEEL I'M RAPIDLY LOSING CONTROL--I JUST CAN'T BE HERE.
SO YOU KNOW?
YOU KNOW ABOUT THE NUCLEAR DEVICES IMPLANTED IN YOUR HEAD?
WHO DID THIS TO YOU? WE CAN FIND THEM, WE CAN *DESTROY THEM* FOR DOING SUCH--

NO... NO. NOT THAT.
THE DEVICES IMPLANTED IN MY MIND ARE...WELL...MY LAST GIFT TO THE HULK.
WHEN I INEVITABLY DIE, HULK WILL LIVE ON FOREVER, TORMENTING ANY SOUL HE COMES ACROSS. THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES GIVE ME ONE FINAL CHANCE TO HAVE HIM DIE ALONG WITH ME. MAYBE, JUST MAYBE, IT'LL WORK.
MAYBE HE'LL BE SEPARATED INTO ENOUGH TINY PIECES OVER FAR ENOUGH DISTANCES THAT... WELL, YOU GET IT. I KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO UNDERSTAND NOW...
...YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO TRUST ME--THERE'S SOMETHING MUCH MORE DESTRUCTIVE INSIDE ME, MORE THAN YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE. I REALLY SHOULD GO.
HE'S GONE MAD. PAVE, BRUTAL, APPREHEND HIM.
WARN
OPEN
ENG
ROOM
SORRY, HULK. I HAVE TO DO THIS--FOR THE GOOD OF OUR PEOPLE.

PAVE...!
WAIT! PLEASE...YOU GOTTA LET ME LEAVE. I'M LOSING CONTROL!
NO...
OH GOD... HE'S HERE... LET ME GO! *LET ME GO!*
HE'S HERE! TITAN IS *HERE!* ***IT'S TOO LATE!***

THIS MUST BE DONE.
YOU MUST REIGN AND RULE HERE, YOU MUST BECOME OUR KING--THE REAL YOU.
I'M AFRAID WE HAVE TO CUT THIS... BRUCE INFECTION OUT OF YOU, ALONG WITH THE OTHER MODIFICATIONS--
--FOR THERE WILL BE NO ATTEMPTS AT KILLING HULK. WE ARE GOING TO SAVE HULK.
TITAN WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING! I MUST LEAVE, AS FAR AS I CAN GO. I'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS I FIX THIS!
NO, THIS ISN'T HAPPENING!
SOS
YES...
...IT IS.

THE STRANGE ACADEMY, NEW ORLEANS.
OKAY, NOW TRY IT WITHOUT THE WAND. SUCH UNNECESSARY LITTLE STICKS...
DOCTOR STRANGE, I KNOW YOU TOLD ME NOT TO INTERRUPT YOU DURING A CLASS, BUT DOC SAMSON IS ON THE COMM TO SPEAK WITH YOU. HE SAYS IT'S EXTREMELY URGENT.
HMMM, I SEE. OKAY, CLASS DISMISSED.
LEONARD! LONG TIME NO S--WAIT, SASQUATCH?!
NO, STEPHEN, IT IS LEONARD. SASQUATCH AND I GOT STUCK IN EACH OTHER'S BODIES--
--BUT THAT'S A LONG STORY* AND I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU THAT CAN'T WAIT.
THIS MIGHT BE A BIT OF A SHOCK...BUT BRUCE BANNER IS ALIVE. I'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM FOR A WHILE NOW.
HE FINALLY SENT COORDINATES TO HIS WHEREABOUTS, AND HE NEEDS OUR HELP.
*SEE IMMORTAL HULK #40. --WIL
I ADMIT THAT WHEN I LEARNED BANNER HAD DIED ON ASGARD, I WAS MORE THAN A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS--
--BUT IT'D BE HYPOCRITICAL OF ME TO JUDGE OTHERS FOR LETTING PEOPLE THINK THEY'RE DEAD.*
SO TELL ME...
*SEE THE STRANGE SERIES THAT JUST WRAPPED LAST MONTH. (AND DON'T MISS NEXT MONTH'S DOCTOR STRANGE #1!) --HYPEMAN WIL
"...WHAT HAS BANNER GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO THIS TIME?"
ARRRGHHH! STOP!

FINALLY. ALL MINE.

HE STOPPED MOVING!
HE'S OUT. CONTINUE WITH THE OPERATION.
...NO. NO, NO... COMPUTER, RE-ESTABLISH SAMSON TRANSMISSION. COMPUTER?!
I'VE LOST CONTROL OF EVERYTHING. I'M ALL ALONE NOW.
WRONG...
...NOT ALONE.
LET'S BEGIN.
STAGE ONE:

HULK! NO, WAIT!
BOOM
HEY, HE'S AWAKE!
GAH! HOLD HIM!

HULK! STOP FIGHTING!
ANY FIGHTING WE DO HERE IN THE ENGINE ROOM JUST FUELS TITAN--HE'S THE BAD GUY OUT THERE WHO IS MAKING THIS HAPPEN.
PLEASE... JUST COME SIT WITH ME. TRUST ME.
SIT. CLOSE YOUR EYES AND JUST BREATHE.
THIS STUPID.
THESE WAVES DO NOT CRASH ON ME.
THEY BREAK ON ME.
BECAUSE I...I AM STRONG.
WHERE'S MY POWER? GIVE IT TO ME!

CLK
STAGE THREE:
GRRRRRRR...
HULK...IT'S OKAY. THESE WAVES DO NOT CRASH ON... US.
THEY BREAK ON US. BECAUSE WE ARE STRONG.

STARK LAB, WUNDAGORE.
SO APPARENTLY TONY CONVERTED THE DEAD CELESTIAL HE WAS STORING HERE INTO HIS LATEST HULKBUSTER ARMOR AND FLEW IT OFF INTO SPACE...
...BUT THANKFULLY, HE LEFT BEHIND THE PART OF IT THAT POWERED THE PORTAL THAT WE NEED IN ORDER TO REACH THE HULK.
THE PORTAL'S LOCKED UP PRETTY WELL NOW...BUT NOTHING IS IMPERVIOUS TO MAGIC.
IN THE MEANTIME, I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO START FROM THE BEGINNING OF THIS. WHAT IS GOING ON HERE EXACTLY?
YES, WELL, THERE IS A PROGRAM BRUCE CONSTRUCTED IN HIS MIND WHERE WE ARE LINKED THROUGH CERTAIN FREQUENCIES NO MATTER WHERE HE GOES ON HIS TRAVELS.
I THINK THAT EVER SINCE HE COMPARTMENTALIZED PIECES OF HIS BRAIN INTO THAT INTRICATE MIND PALACE, IT'S OPENED UP SOME TRAUMA IN WAYS HE'S NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.
WHICH IS WHY HE HIRED ME AS A PSYCHIATRIST TO KEEP HIM SANE THROUGHOUT--BUT IT'S ONLY GONE DOWNHILL, IT SEEMS.
THERE IS AN ENTITY LURKING INSIDE HIM--IT SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN OVER. I'VE BEEN ASKING HIM FOR A WHILE TO TELL ME WHO HELPED HIM WITH THE MIND ALTERATIONS SO WE COULD GET IT REVERSED.
BUT HE REFUSED TO SHARE THAT INFO--UNTIL I RECEIVED THE PRE-WRITTEN SOS MESSAGE HE JUST SENT ME.
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'D CREATE THE MIND PALACE FOR HIM--YOU WANTED TO HELP HIM BE IN CONTROL OF THE HULK AND OF HIMSELF.
BUT I THINK THE EXPERIMENT BACKFIRED. YOU REALLY NEED TO DISMANTLE THE MIND PALACE--BRING THINGS BACK TO WHATEVER NORMALITY HE HAD BEFORE.
ME?! I HONESTLY HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS. I'VE HEARD FROM A SOURCE THAT THE MAGIC USED ON BRUCE WAS SOMETHING UNKNOWN. SOMETHING ANCIENT AND POWERFUL.
I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO. I NEED ANSWERS.
WE NEED TO HELP BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE. I'M GOING IN.

HE'S CALMED DOWN AGAIN.
GOOD. CONTINUE WITH THE REST OF THE EXTRACTION. GET IT DONE QUICKLY!
YES, BRUCE, KEEP RESISTING...
CLIK
STAGE NINE:
THESE WAVES...THEY CRASH...ON US...

SO BE IT.
KRAKK
STAGE *:
KROOOOM

HULK #4 VARIANT BY **E.M. GIST**

HULK #4 2ND PRINTING VARIANT BY **RYAN OTTLEY** & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**

HULK #5 VARIANT BY **PEPE LARRAZ**

HULK #5 VARIANT BY **JONBOY MEYERS**

HULK #13

THEN.
BRUCE... DO YOU FEEL IT? THE HULK... HE IS GONE.
LOCKED AWAY IN A BACK CORNER OF YOUR MIND. YOU ARE IN FULL CONTROL, THE MAGIC IS DEEPLY ROOTED NOW. THINGS SHOULD BE TAKING SHAPE. DO YOU SEE?
YOUR NEW COGNITIVE ENVIRONMENT SHOULD BE COMING INTO VIEW. I WILL NOW ENTER YOUR MIND AND JOIN YOU. LET'S WALK TOGETHER IN YOUR NEW MIND PALACE...

HOW DOES IT FEEL?
THE TREES... THEY WEREN'T HERE A MOMENT AGO. I WATCHED THEM GROW. I...THOUGHT THEM INTO EXISTENCE.
YES. IT'S *YOUR* MIND. NO ONE ELSE'S. YOU NO LONGER SHARE CONTROL WITH ANYONE.
THIS "MIND PALACE" IS VERSATILE-- YOU CAN MAKE CHANGES, MAKE TREES, MOUNTAINS, BUILDINGS. YOU ARE A *GOD* HERE.
DOCTOR STRANGE, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU. I ACTUALLY DIDN'T THINK YOU CARED.
I'VE BEEN EMPATHETIC TO YOUR PLIGHT FOR A WHILE, BRUCE. ONCE I LEARNED OF THIS NEW MAGIC, I HAD TO SEE IF I COULD HELP YOU CONTROL THE HULK ON YOUR OWN TERMS.
BUT REMEMBER, WE MUST NOT SPEAK OF THIS IN THE OPEN. I'M BREAKING ALL SORTS OF RULES HERE AS IT IS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS IN THE FUTURE, I'LL GIVE YOU A SPELL TO CONTACT ME.
NOW COME, LET'S BUILD YOUR WORLD. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO USE HULK'S POWER, AND THIS TIME...YOU'LL GET TO EXPERIENCE WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN CHARGE OF ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL BEINGS IN EXISTENCE.
YOU NOW GET TO *BE* THE *HULK!*

EL PASO, THE NIGHT AFTER.
IT...IT WASN'T ME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, IT JUST... EVERYONE AT THE BAR STARTED TO CHANGE, TO HULK OUT. THIS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MAGIC YOU USED TO CREATE THE MIND PALACE.
NO. I'M NOT SURE WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON, BUT I WILL LOOK INTO IT. IN THE MEANTIME, GET SOME REST.
I CAN'T STAY HERE. THEY'LL BE AFTER ME SOON.
THIS WHOLE THING WAS YOUR IDEA--TO GIVE ME CONTROL.
BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED, STEPHEN. IT WASN'T *ME!*
GIVE IT TIME, BRUCE. THINGS WILL WORK OUT, JUST TRUST ME...
NO! I AM *DONE.* I'M STILL PUTTING PEOPLE IN DANGER.
I WOULD RATHER LIVE THE REST OF MY EXISTENCE SEARCHING THE COSMOS FOR SOME SEMBLANCE OF PEACE!
WHERE HULK AND I CAN DIE ALONE WITHOUT PUTTING ANYONE ELSE IN DANGER.
I'M LEAVING. DON'T LOOK FOR ME!
SMASH
THAT... WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN.

ONE VIOLENT HEIST OF M.O.D.O.K.'S PRECIOUS SPACE-TRAVEL TECH LATER...*
I NEVER WANTED THIS.
NEVER WANTED TO BE A HERO.
*SEE FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2021: AVENGERS/HULK #1, COLLECTED IN THE HULK VOL. 1: SMASHTRONAUT! TRADE PAPERBACK. --WIL
NEVER WANTED TO BE AN AVENGER OR A DEFENDER...
NEVER ASKED TO BE A MONSTER...
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WANTED TO BE AN ASTRONAUT.
I WANTED TO BE AN EXPLORER.
I WANTED TO FIND NEW WORLDS.
BUT INSTEAD I JUST BUILT BOMBS.
NO MORE.
I'VE DONE MY TIME AS A MONSTER.
DONE MY TOURS OF DUTY AS A HERO.
NOW IT'S MY TURN...
I'M LEAVING.
I'M GOING TO EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN IN MY INDESTRUCTIBLE GREEN SPACESHIP...
...AND I'M NEVER COMING BACK.

NOW.
YOU READY FOR THIS, STRANGE?
STARK WAS ADAMANT THAT NO ONE ENTER THIS PORTAL SINCE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE.
THE DIFFICULTY OF RETURNING MAKES THIS EVEN MORE DANGEROUS.
OH, I'M NOT GOING IN THERE, SAMSON!
HE IS.

→GURGLE←... GAK...
GUH... UHHHH...
P-PAVE... BRUTAL... WHERE...?
I'M HERE, MONOLITH.
OUR PEOPLE ARE SCATTERED AND IN PIECES. I WILL HELP THEM GATHER THEMSELVES SO THEY CAN HEAL UP.
BUT HULK... HE...HE BECAME SO MANY PIECES...CAN HE EVEN COME BACK FROM THAT?
KRRRKK
WHO...? WHAT IS THIS?!
THOOOOOOMMMMM
OH MY GOD...

RRAHHH!!!
BOOM
DIE, MONSTER!
URRRR...

I'VE ARRIVED. NOW TO FIND--
OH NO...
...I'M TOO LATE.
WHAT IS IT?! WHAT DO YOU SEE?
IT'S *HIM.* HE'S DESTROYED EVERYTHING--IT'S A COMPLETE WAR ZONE.
I'M GOING IN!
THESE WALLS... THEY...
...THE MAGIC THAT BUILT THIS...THERE IS A FAMILIARITY HERE.

HEAR ME, MONSTER!
YOU WILL RELEASE BRUTAL RIGHT N--
THOOM
BWWAAAAH
BRUTAL! NO! NO...
HE...HE KILLED HIM...
WAIT. HE CAN'T HEAL?! MONOLITH...WE HAVE TO HELP HIM!
EVERYONE...TEAR THIS CREATURE INTO A THOUSAND PIECES!

GET HIM!
YES, COME TO ME...
...I WILL ACCEPT ALL YOUR OFFERINGS.
HOW DARE YOU ENTER MY HOME?!
HE'S SLOWING DOWN!
KRAK
GET... IRK...OUT... RRRRR...

VOOOOM
OUT!
RAAAAAAAHH!
SMACK
I...I KNOW THAT MAGIC. I KNOW WHO DID THIS...
I'LL BE BACK.

RRRRRR...
BWAAAAAUUU
RAAHHHHH!

THRAKA
BOOOM

GONE. ALL GONE...SO QUICKLY.
THEY'RE... DEAD?!
PLEASE...I... LET'S RUN, LET'S HIDE. WE CAN'T LOSE MORE OF US! OUR PEOPLE, OUR CITY, OUR PLANET, ALL DESTROYED...
LET'S FLEE TO THE ASTEROID BELT, HOP TO NEARBY MOONS. WE MUST GET AWAY!
THEN RUN. ALL OF YOU.
I'LL STAY.
WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?! THAT ORB--?
I MUST HURRY.
THE LIVES LOST IN THE LAST FIVE MINUTES ALONE ARE NO DOUBT INNUMERABLE.

OH GOD!
I WILL FREE YOU, BUT REMEMBER, YOU NOW KNOW FIRSTHAND THE EFFICIENCY OF MY NEW POWERS OF CONTAINMENT AND TORTURE, SO DON'T TRY ANYTHING. DO AS I INSTRUCTED.
DISMANTLE WHAT YOU BUILT.
AS YOU COMMAND, SORCERER SUPREME...

YOUR POWERS WERE SIMPLE TO TRACK. YOU DECEIVED BRUCE, DISGUISED AS ME. YOU CRAFTED THIS INTRICATE MIND PALACE...FOR WHAT? WHAT IS THE ENDGAME HERE?
NO COMMENT, D'SPAYRE?
IT SEEMS BLASPHEMOUS TO SPEAK ON ANOTHER'S INTENT.
I AM NOTHING BUT A SERVANT IN THIS PLAN.
VMMMMMMMMM

HULK... BRUCE...IF YOU'RE IN THERE... FIGHT IT!
FIGHT THIS DEMON WITH ME!
FIGHT!
WHA--?
THOOM
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY HOME?!
UNH!
ARGHHH!
VMMMMMM

GAHHHHHH!
RAHHHHHH!!!
COME TO ME. LET'S PLAY.
NYARGH!!!
HE'S PULLING ME IN--DEAR GOD, I DON'T KNOW HOW IT'S DOING THIS! SAMSON, TAKE HOLD!
I GOT YOU!
WE'RE TOO LATE!
IT'S IN FULL CONTROL NOW! WE'RE DOOMED! THAT PLANET, THIS PLANET, EVERYTHING IS D--

HULK #5 VARIANT BY **JORGE FORNÉS**

HULK #14

THE MIND PALACE.
ALONE.
IS THIS REALLY HOW IT ENDS?
FOREVER STUCK IN THE WALLS OF MY OWN MIND...
...WATCHING AS THIS TITAN DOES WHATEVER HE WANTS WITH MY BODY?
I'M USED TO MY BODY BEING TAKEN OVER BY AN INSANE, ANGRY %@#&%$#...
...BUT *THIS* %@#&%$# IS CONSIDERABLY WORSE.
HULK PLANET.

MUCH WORSE.
D'SPAYRE, MY SERVANT, WATCH OVER OUR PRISONER.
HIS ASTRAL SELF WILL BE REUNITED WITH HIS BODY SOON, AND THEN YOU MAY DESTROY HIM AT YOUR LEISURE...
...WHILE I RIP THE GAMMA FROM THIS WORLD.
YES, MY LORD.
YOU MUST HAVE THOUGHT YOURSELF SO POWERFUL WHEN YOU LOCKED ME IN YOUR LITTLE ORB AND BROUGHT ME HERE, STRANGE. DID YOU NOT WONDER WHY IT WAS SO EASY TO CAPTURE ME?
HAD IT NOT OCCURRED TO YOU THAT MAYBE I WANTED TO COME HERE? TO BE CLOSER TO THIS POWER THAT I MYSELF PLANTED IN BANNER'S MIND?
THIS MUST BE FRIGHTENING FOR YOU, OVERWHELMING...

"I FELT THE SAME WAY YOU DO RIGHT NOW WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO THIS POWER.
"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I SENSED SOMETHING FAR GREATER THAN MY CREATOR--GREATER THAN ANY BEING I'D EVER ENCOUNTERED.
"AND IT HANDED A PIECE OF ITS POWER TO ME.
"THE WEIGHT OF THIS SMALL SPECK...WAS OVERWHELMING.
"I WANTED TO BEG FOR JUST A PORTION OF THIS SPECK FOR MYSELF, BUT THE FEAR CONSUMED ME. WHO WAS I TO ASK ANYTHING OF A BEING SUCH AS THIS?
"I WAS CHARGED WITH EMBEDDING THE POWER DEEP IN BANNER'S MIND, IN HIS MOST POWERFUL MEMORIES..."
IT FOUND ITS WAY, FED ON A PERFECT SYSTEM OF FUNNELING GAMMA FROM HULK...AND GREW INTO WHAT WE NOW HAVE BEFORE US.
A *TITAN.*
HE WILL DRAIN THIS PLANET, THEN MOVE ON TO YOUR HOMEWORLD. AND I GET TO WATCH EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AS DEATH WASHES OVER ALL IN A SYMPHONY OF WEEPING AND WAILING.
I THANK YOU FOR THE INVITE.

HANG TIGHT, LEONARD! TITAN HAS AN EXTREMELY STRONG LOCK ON ME, BUT I CAN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THE HOLD ONCE WE EXIT THE PORTAL.
AND D'SPAYRE IS CHATTING AWAY-- HE THINKS I'M LISTENING TO HIS BLITHERING TIRADES.
HE SHOULD KNOW THAT HEARING THROUGH ASTRAL PROJECTION IS OPTIONAL.
YOUR MOST IMPRESSIVE MAGIC TRICK: NOT LISTENING.
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?!
HOPE THIS WORKS...
UNH!
WHAT?!
FZZZZT
RUHH...!

WE NEED TO *STOP* THIS THING...
WHAT HAPPENED TO TITAN?
"WHAT...WHAT WAS THAT?!"
MY LORD, I SENSE YOUR POWERS HAVE... WEAKENED.
SHE WAS *SIPHONING* MY POWERS THE ENTIRE TIME?! I UNDERESTIMATED HER.
D'SPAYRE, DESTROY THE WIZARD. I WILL FOCUS ON THIS QUEEN.
"SHE WILL RETURN WHAT SHE HAS *STOLEN* FROM ME."

VMMMMMMMM
YOU FAILED US, HULK! BRUCE... YOU FAILED US! YOU BROUGHT THIS DEMON TO OUR HOME! NOW IT DIES.
YOU ALL DIE!
VOOOOOOSH
THOOM
KROOMM
KROOMM
KZZZZZZKSSK
HOW DARE YOU TAKE FROM ME THAT WHICH IS MINE?!

MONOLITH! SHE...SHE SAVED US ALL!
UNH...
OH GOD! NO!
YOU DESTROYED IT, MY QUEEN!
NO...NO, I ANGERED IT. I SAW...EVERYTHING. ITS POWER...I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT... SO ANCIENT... MASSIVE...
WE MUST FLEE. IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE.
BUT IT'S GONE! YOU DRAINED ITS POWER AND SENT IT TO DIE! YOU SAVED US ALL!
NO! I JUST UNLEASHED EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY I TOOK FROM IT IN THE HOPE OF INJURING IT, BUT I CAN SENSE ITS POWER--
--IT ABSORBED EVERYTHING!
"MY EFFORTS DID NOTHING BUT FEED IT!"

I WILL OPEN A PORTAL NEAR THE SURVIVORS. HELP ME SPREAD THE WORD, GET AS MANY INTO THE PORTAL AS POSSIBLE, AND THEN YOU GO WITH THEM WHILE I DIVERT TITAN AWAY FROM--
STEPHEN!
GO AWAY, BEAST--THIS WIZARD AND I HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO.
AAAAAHH!
UNH!
PLEASE, MONOLITH, YOU ARE OUR ONLY HOPE HERE! TAKE POWER FROM ME.
TAKE FROM ALL OF US! SAVE THE OTHERS!
UH, HELLO. I'M A FRIEND OF HULK'S FROM EARTH. I'D LIKE TO OFFER UP SOME GAMMA TOO.
SO BE IT.

YOU FEEL IT? EVERY MUSCLE FIBER OF YOUR PRIMITIVE CARBON-BASED FORM IS BEING TORN APART. DO YOU SEE, IN YOUR MIND'S EYE, THE FUTURE? DO YOU SEE YOUR LOVED ONES BEING RIPPED TO SHREDS BY THIS TITAN?
HOW HELPLESS YOU MORTALS ARE. NOTHING YOU CAN DO. NO DEFENSE AGAINST MY TRUE POWER. WHEN WILL YOU LEARN THAT WE **FEAR LORDS** ARE A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH?
WHAT? NO! NOOOOOO OOO...!
I RECKON JUST FINE.
VVVVVM
MMMMM
HURRY, JUMP INTO THIS PORTAL! WE'LL SAVE AS MANY AS WE CAN. I'LL STAY BACK AND TRY TO DIVERT TITAN AWAY FROM THE PORTAL!
IT'S TOO LATE...

"...TITAN IS BACK."
BOOM
HULK...
WHERE ARE YOU?
DOESN'T ANY OF THIS ANGER YOU? IS THIS REALLY HOW YOU WANT TO SPEND OUR ETERNITY? AS A MEMORY STUCK IN A MIND THAT WAS TAKEN FROM US?!
THOOOM

RAAAHH!!
KA-BOOOM
AGGGGHH!
I'M SORRY, HULK. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO HEAR? I THOUGHT YOU WERE KILLING PEOPLE. INFECTING THEM. I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT I COULDN'T BE OKAY WITH IT. I HAD TO TAKE FULL CONTROL. I HAD TO LEAVE THE PLANET. I HAD TO PROTECT EVERYONE MY OWN WAY.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING? I HAD TO DO THIS! AND NOW I NEED YOUR HELP! THIS WHOLE PLANET NEEDS OUR HELP!
WE HAVE TO GO--THIS WILL GIVE US SOME TIME!
WAIT...
...SAVE MY PEOPLE FIRST!

WE CAN OPEN AS MANY PORTALS AS NEEDED TO GET YOUR PEOPLE TO SAFETY. THERE'RE MANY OTHER DIMENSIONS TO FIND REFUGE IN.
I'M SORRY TO SAY IT, BUT YOUR PLANET IS LOST. WE CAN'T STOP TITAN.
THANK YOU FOR HELPING US. I...
BZZZZZKT
RRAAAHHHH!
WHY DON'T YOU CARE? WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR YOU TO REACT?
DOESN'T IT ANGER YOU TO KNOW THESE PEOPLE COULD ALL DIE AT THE HANDS OF TITAN?
THEY COULD BE GONE AT ANY MOMENT. THE ENTIRE PLANET GONE IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE! BECAUSE OF **YOU!**
WAKE UP!

AAAGGHH!
WAKE UP!!! WHERE THE #@$% ARE YOU, DAMMIT?!
OH GOD, I CAN'T HOLD IT!
HULK?! YOU... YOU'RE HERE. NOW. WITH ME.
WE *ARE* HULK. AND WE HAVE MANY REASONS TO BE ANGRY.
SO LET'S GET ANGRY! *GET TITAN OUT!*
RRAAAAHH!!!...

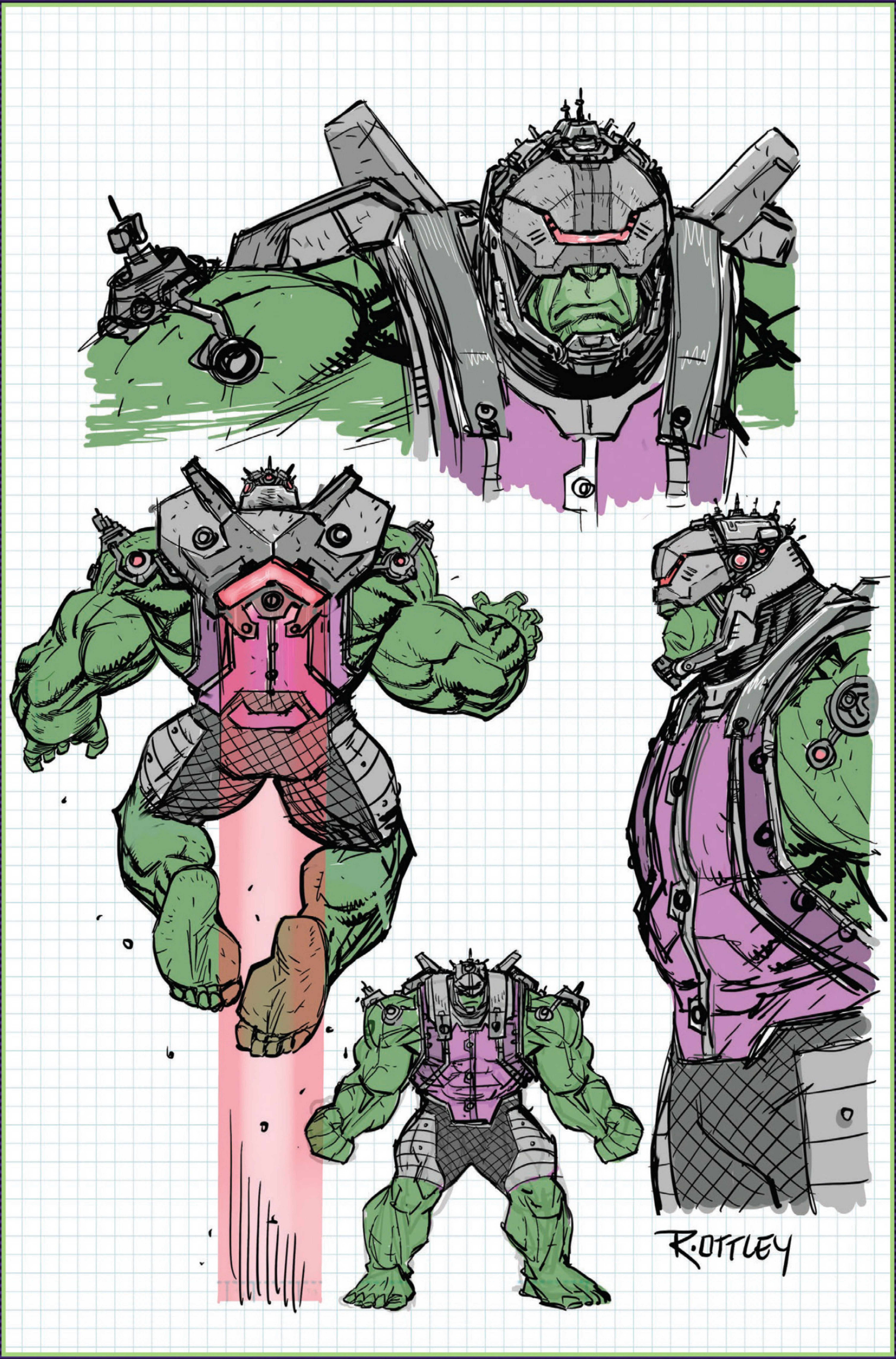
I'VE TAKEN ALL I NEED FROM YOU.
UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN'T GET RID OF YOU COMPLETELY.
BUT I WILL HAVE D'SPAYRE CREATE ANOTHER MIND PALACE, ONE WITH NO DOOR, NO CHANCE OF YOUR ESCAPE, AND NO RED-CAPED WIZARD TO HELP YOU--I'M ACTUALLY KILLING HIM RIGHT NOW AS WE SPEAK.
THIS IS *MY* HOME NOW.
SO BE A GOOD BOY--SIT DOWN, BE QUIET AND WAIT PATIENTLY FOR YOUR *ETERNAL INCARCERATION.*
NO!
HULK WON'T BE CAGED!
HULK FREE!
THOOM

RAAAAHHHH!!!
RAARRGHH!

For Bruce
BRUCE, DOC SAMSON HERE!
WELL, IF YOU'RE READING THIS, YOU'RE AWAKE, AND YOU'RE GETTING BACK INTO THE SWING OF A REGULAR LIFE WITH A REGULAR RUN-OF-THE-MILL HULK IN THERE!
WELCOME BACK TO EARTH! HOPE YOU ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY OF THE STRANGE ACADEMY UNTIL YOU FEEL YOU'RE READY TO LEAVE.
AND LET ME START OFF BY SAYING...YOU'RE NOT BLAMED FOR WHAT HAPPENED. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? ON THAT HULK PLANET *OR* IN EL PASO.
KNOWING YOU, I'M GUESSING YOU BLAME YOURSELF AND WANT TO HIDE FROM ALL THOSE WHO WERE CAUGHT IN THE PATH OF DESTRUCTION. BUT IT WASN'T YOU, BRUCE.
DOCTOR STRANGE DID A DEEP ASSESSMENT ON YOUR MIND, AND IT'S OBVIOUS THAT WHAT YOU WERE INFECTED WITH GREW TO THE POINT THAT IT TOOK OVER.
AND YOU...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED US ALL. YOU AND THE BIG GUY, OF COURSE.
EVERYONE INVOLVED NOW KNOWS OF YOUR INNOCENCE AND HEROISM.
WITCH DAY
SORCERY TIMES
FUN MAGIC
AND NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT D'SPAYRE.
SEER STONES & CRYSTAL BALLS
OCCULT LIFE
STRANGE ASSURES ME HE WON'T BE A PROBLEM ANY FURTHER.

IN OTHER NEWS... I'M STILL ON THE HULK PLANET! I ENDED UP STAYING TO HELP WITH THE CLEANUP EFFORTS.
THE LOSSES WERE HIGH, BUT THEY ARE WORKING HARD TO BUILD BACK THE CITY AND GET THEIR WORLD BACK TO A SEMBLANCE OF NORMALITY.
MONOLITH WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU, BRUCE. DON'T WORRY, SHE WAS BRIEFED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING--AND DOCTOR STRANGE REASSURED HER THAT YOU ARE SAFE.
WHEN YOU'RE READY, LOOK IN THE TOP DRAWER OF THE NIGHTSTAND. THERE'RE KEYS TO A REAL SPACESHIP THAT WILL FLY YOU HERE. NO INVASIVE SURGERIES REQUIRED!
SO COME VISIT HULK PLANET. THEY ALL WANTED ME TO INVITE YOU TO THE OFFICIAL GODBALL GAMES STARTING NEXT WEEK!
THEY SAID YOU WERE QUITE THE ATHLETE, BUT HULK SHOULD PROBABLY SIT ON THE SIDELINES FOR THIS ONE.
AND JUST A REMINDER--I ACTUALLY LOOK NOTHING LIKE I DID IN THE THERAPY PROGRAM FOR PROJECT STARSHIP HULK. I'M STILL A GIANT GREEN SASQUATCH!

THE TITAN POWER, WHATEVER IT WAS, BONDED TO YOUR TRAUMA CENTERS. IT'S STILL THERE, UNFORTUNATELY. WHILE STEPHEN MADE IT CLEAR YOU'RE SAFE, I STILL WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU REGULARLY.
KEEP UP WITH YOUR MEDITATIONS. STAY CALM. KEEP TRIGGERS AT BAY SO SYMPTOMS DON'T COME CREEPING BACK.
I'M NO EXPERT ON POWERFUL BEINGS ATTACHING TO TRAUMA AND TRIGGERING THEM UNTIL THEY CAN POSSESS THE HOST...BUT I AM FAMILIAR WITH BASIC TRAUMA.
HOW IT CAN REMAIN DORMANT FOR YEARS AND THEN SUDDENLY FLARE UP AND OVERWHELM. IT WILL NEVER REALLY GO AWAY COMPLETELY.
BUT FOR NOW, WE CAN LET IT ALL RECEDE BACK INTO THE PAST.
THE END...?



HULK #1 DESIGN VARIANT BY **RYAN OTTLEY**

HULK #6 VARIANT BY **ALEX MALEEV**

HULK #6 VARIANT BY
MARCO MASTRAZZO

HULK #6 SPIDER-MAN VARIANT BY
ALEX GARNER

HULK #6 VARIANT BY **RYAN STEGMAN,**
JP MAYER & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**

HULK #6 SPOILER VARIANT BY
GEOFF SHAW & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**

HULK #6 VARIANT BY **RYAN OTTLEY** & **ROMULO FAJARDO JR.**

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA VARIANT BY
MARTÍN CÓCCOLO & **MATTHEW WILSON**

***THOR* #25** AND ***HULK* #7** CONNECTING VARIANTS BY
GEOFF SHAW & **FEDERICO BLEE**

***THOR* #25** VARIANT BY
J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & **SABINE RICH**

***THOR* #25** RETRO VARIANT BY
J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & **SABINE RICH**

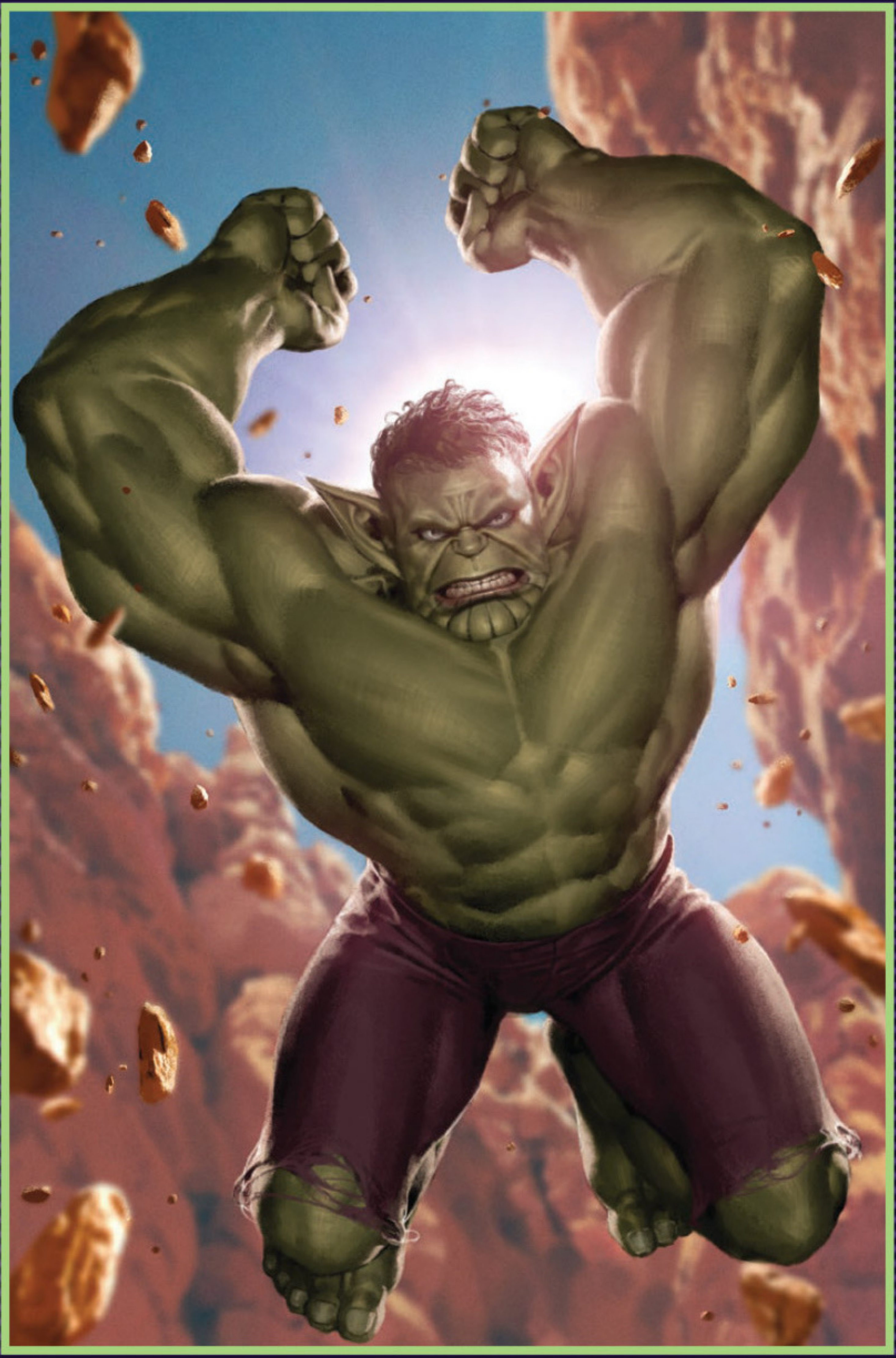
***HULK* #7** VARIANT BY
J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & **SABINE RICH**

***HULK* #7** RETRO VARIANT BY
J. SCOTT CAMPBELL & **SABINE RICH**

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA
HULK SMASH VARIANT BY
TREVOR VON EEDEN & **FEDERICO BLEE**

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA
MJOLNIR CRASH VARIANT BY
TREVOR VON EEDEN & **FEDERICO BLEE**

HULK VS. THOR: BANNER OF WAR ALPHA
VARIANT BY **RON LIM** & **ISRAEL SILVA**

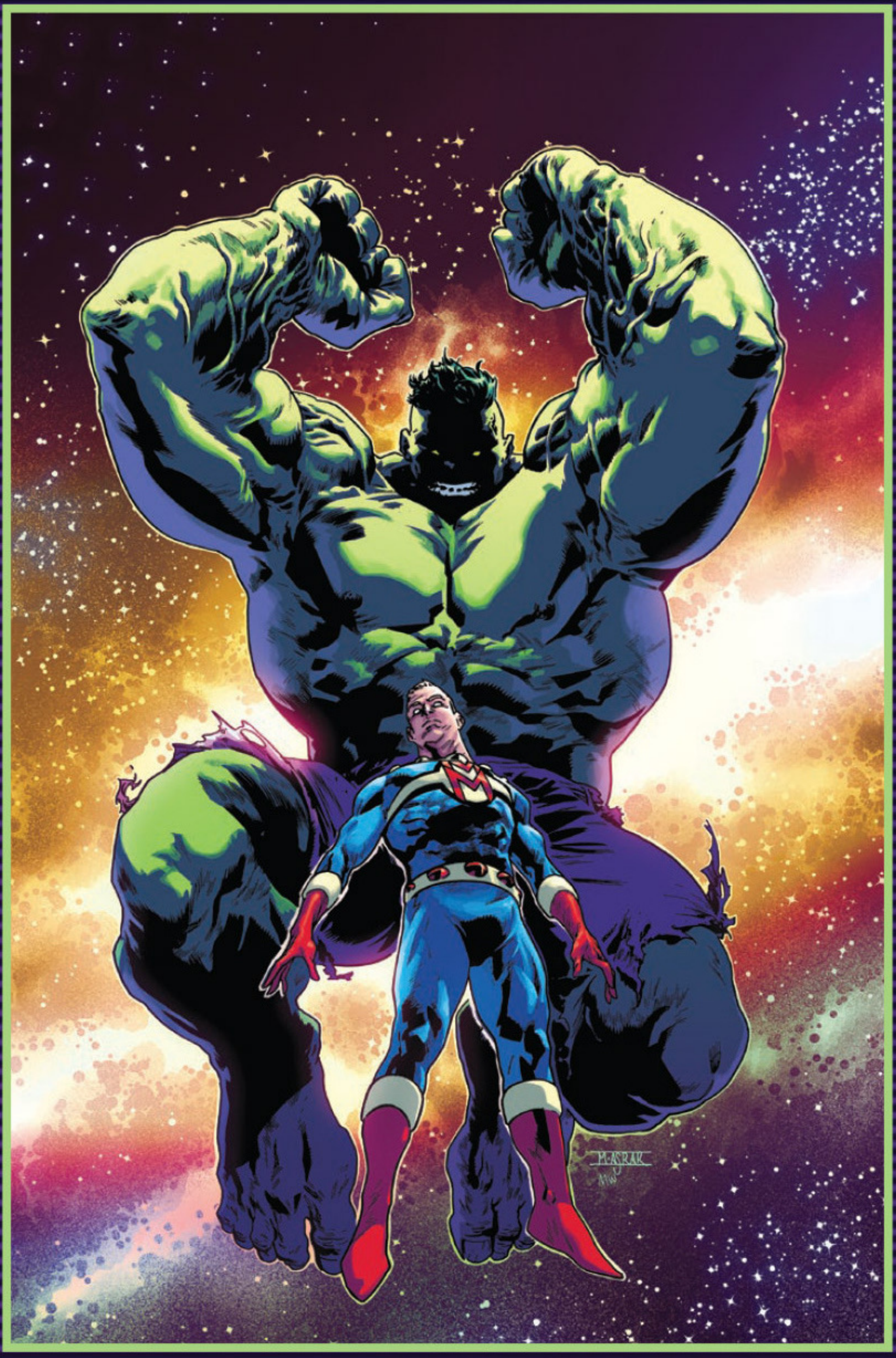


HULK #7 SKRULL VARIANT BY
JUNGGEUN YOON

THOR #26 PRIDE VARIANT BY
BETSY COLA

HULK #8 HELLFIRE GALA VARIANT BY
RUSSELL DAUTERMAN & **MATTHEW WILSON**

HULK #9 VARIANT BY **DAN PANOSIAN**

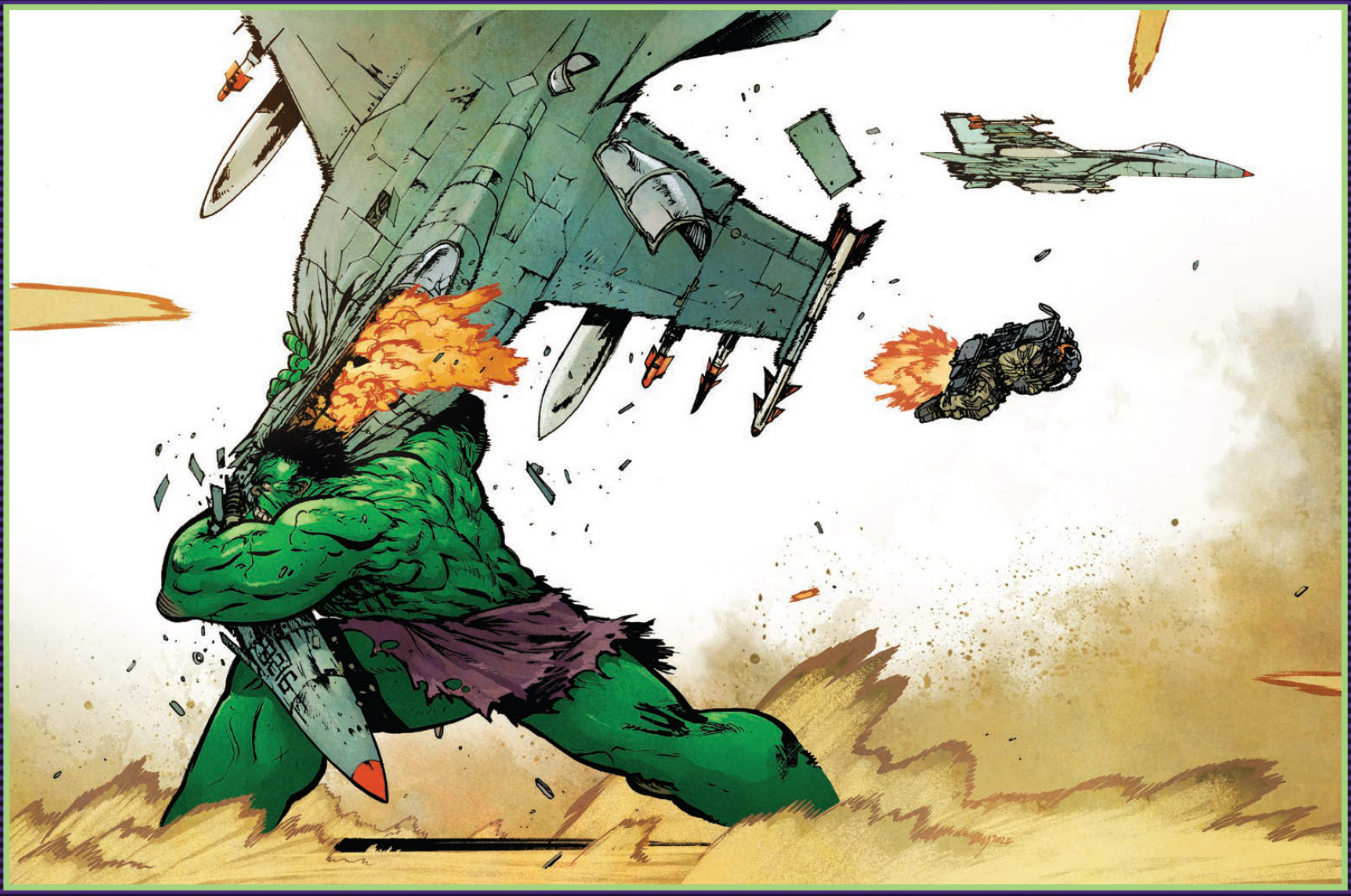


***HULK* #9** MIRACELMAN VARIANT BY
MAHMUD ASRAR & **MATTHEW WILSON**

***HULK* #11** VARIANT BY **JUNI BA**

***HULK* #11** MARVEL ANATOMY VARIANT BY
JONAH LOBE

***HULK* #11** VARIANT BY
NICK BRADSHAW & JIM CHARALAMPIDIS



HULK #11 VARIANT BY **DANIEL WARREN JOHNSON** & **MIKE SPICER**

HULK #12 X-TREME MARVEL VARIANT BY
DAN JURGENS

HULK #12 VARIANT BY
TRAVEL FOREMAN & **BRIAN REBAR**

HULK #12 NO PRIZE VARIANT

HULK #13 CLASSIC HOMAGE VARIANT BY **STEVE McNIVEN** & **FRANK D'ARMATA**

HULK #13 VARIANT BY **PEACH MOMOKO**

HULK #14 VARIANT BY **NIC KLEIN**

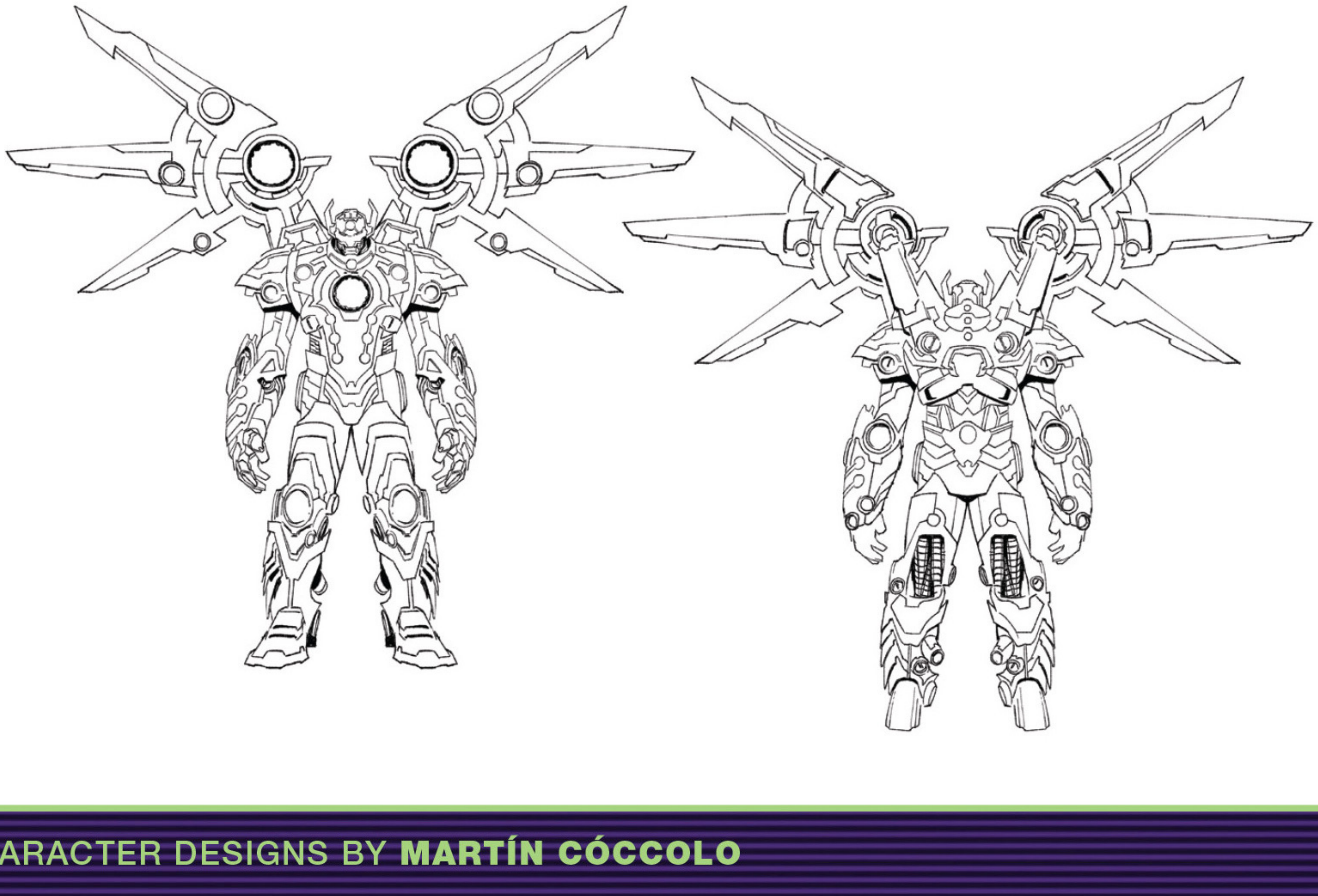
HULK #14 VARIANT BY **SKOTTIE YOUNG**

HULK #13 TIMELESS VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS

HULK #13 TIMELESS SKETCH VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS

HULK #14 TIMELESS VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS

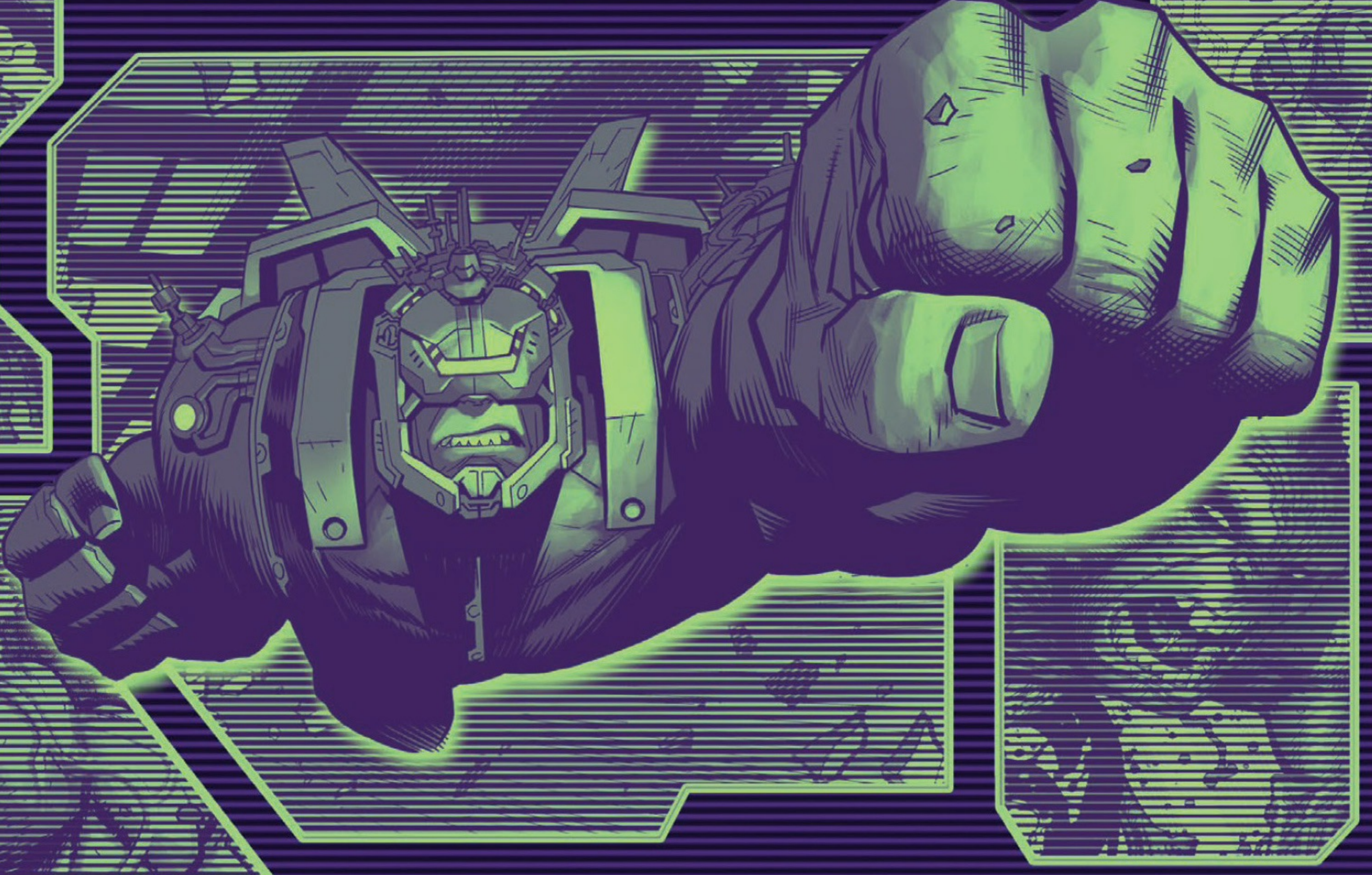
HULK #14 TIMELESS SKETCH VARIANT BY
ALEX ROSS



CHARACTER DESIGNS BY **MARTÍN CÓCCOLO**

“Visually this book is stunning with all the bells and whistles of a great sci-fi/horror fright fest.” — *Comic Crusaders*

STARSHIP HULK!



The Green Goliath has undergone a startling transformation. Somehow, **BRUCE BANNER** has gained control and rearranged his fractured psyche into three distinct parts. The **HULK**’s body has been augmented for interstellar travel. Banner himself is the captain on the bridge, setting his sights on new frontiers. And his alter ego’s rampant anger has been harnessed in the engine room. For so long, his rage has controlled him — but now he’s fueled by it! And the universe isn’t ready for what’s coming!

Collecting *Hulk (2021) #1-14*, *Hulk vs. Thor: Banner of War Alpha*, *Thor (2020) #26*, and material from *Free Comic Book Day 2021: Avengers/Hulk* and *Thor (2020) #25* — by Donny Cates, Ryan Ottley, Daniel Warren Johnson, Martín Cóccolo, Cliff Rathburn, Frank Martin, Federico Blee, Matthew Wilson, Marte Gracia and Sonia Oback.

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MARVEL